

Basic Doctrine 1

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Teacher's Manual

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Lesson 1- 2

Why Study Doctrine

Colossians 2:7 - *“Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.”*

I. What is doctrine?

- A. The word “doctrine” simply means “teaching” or “instruction.”
- B. A Bible doctrine consists of all that the Bible has to say on a particular subject.

II. What is the basic goal of doctrinal study?

- A. To give us an orderly understanding of basic biblical truths (Luke 1:1-4).

“Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”

- B. To ground us in our faith solidly upon the word of God (Col. 2:6-8).

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

III. Why is it important for us to study Bible doctrine?

- A. First, because it was important to Jesus (John 17:8; Mt. 7:28-29; John 7:14-17).

Now about the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. ¹⁵And the Jews marveled, saying, “How does this Man know letters, having never studied?”

¹⁶Jesus answered them and said, “My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. ¹⁷If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority. John 7:14-17

1. Jesus Himself focused on teaching in His ministry.
2. It was Jesus knowledge of true doctrine that gave Him a sharp sword against the devil (Luke 4:4).

3. Jesus instructed us to do the same (Mt. 28:20).

B. Second, because it was important to the disciples (Luke 1:1-4, Acts 6:4).

...but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:4

C. Third, because it was important to Paul (I Tim. 6:3; 4:16).

Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you. I Timothy 4:16

D. Fourth, because the Early Church saw it as one of the necessary essentials of body life (Acts 2:41-42).

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1. They continued "steadfast" in the apostles' doctrine.

2. To continue steadfast is to persevere, to give constant attention to a thing, to be devoted to, to be in constant readiness for.

E. Fifth, because it is God's means of progressing the development of our Christian character (Is. 28:9-10; Jam. 1:22-25).

"Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little." Isaiah 28:9-10

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25

1. Right teaching leads to righteous living (Col. 1:9-10).

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

2. Right teaching leads to Christian freedom (John 8:31-32, 36).

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” ³³They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say ‘You will be made free’?” ³⁴Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

3. Right teaching leads to sanctification (John 15:3; 17:17; II Tim. 3:14-17; Eph. 5:26).

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
John 15:13

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. John 17:17

*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with **the washing of water by the word**, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*
Ephesians 5:25-27

4. Right teaching leads to maturity (Col. 1:27-28; Eph. 4:11-16).

*And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ **that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*
Ephesians 4:11-16

5. Right teaching leads to life (Pro. 16:20-23).

Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD. ²¹The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. ²²Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, but folly brings punishment to fools. ²³A wise man’s heart guides his mouth, and his lips promote instruction.

6. Right teaching is the rain that will cause our lives to bear fruit (Deut. 32:2).

Let my teaching [lit. doctrine] drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.

- F. Sixth, because the last days will be characterized by deception (I Tim. 4:1-2; II Tim. 4:1-5).

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron... I Timothy 4:1-2

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: ²Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. II Timothy 4:1-4

1. Right teaching will help us to be able to judge true doctrine (I Tim. 1:3-4).

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.

Handling the real helps you to identify the counterfeit. Unless we have studied doctrine ourselves, we have not confidence to know “other doctrines.”

2. Right teaching will keep us from going astray (Pro. 5:23; 8:33).

He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray. Proverbs 5:23

3. Right teaching will keep us from being blown about (Eph. 4:14).

“Driven before the wind of each new doctrine” (Weymouth).

4. Right teaching will help us to be firmly rooted in Christ (Col. 2:7).

5. Right teaching will give us confidence in spiritual warfare when the battle is raging (II Tim. 1:12-14).

*For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and **am persuaded** that He is able to keep what I have*

committed to Him until that Day. ¹³**Hold fast the pattern of sound words** which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ *That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.*

G. Seventh, because we are commanded to “instruct” all nations (Mt. 28:20).

This command is not just given to the apostles and church leaders. It is for all of us to do.

1. Right teaching will help us to give an answer to those who ask (I Pet. 3:15).

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...

2. Right teaching will help us to convince those who contradict (Tit. 1:9).

... holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

3. Right teaching will enable us to teach others (II Tim. 2:2; Heb. 8:11).

You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. II Timothy 2:1-2

H. Eighth, because right teaching will bring peace to God’s people (II Chr. 15:3-5).

Peace is the opposite of confusion.

*For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, and without law; but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them. And in those times there was **no peace** to the one who went out, nor to the one who came in, **but great turmoil** was on all the inhabitants of the lands.*

I. Ninth, because doctrine affects our fellowship (II Th. 3:1, 14; II John 9-11). It is hard to have fellowship with those who do not hold these truths.

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds. II John 9-11

J. Tenth, because doctrine determines destiny (John 14:6). There is only one way to life both now and in eternity.

K. Eleventh, because good doctrine makes one spiritually rich (Pro. 8:8-11).

All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them.⁹ They are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.¹⁰ Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold;¹¹ For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

L. Twelfth, because good doctrine makes one wise (Pro. 9:9; 4:1-13; 19:20).

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. Proverbs 9:9

Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; keep her, for she is your life.

Proverbs 4:13

Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.

Proverbs 19:20

1. Right teaching is hated by the wicked (Ps. 50:17).

2. Right teaching is despised by the fool (Pro. 1:7).

M. Finally, because God is restoring the teaching ministry to the Church that the Church might fully enter into the purposes of God (Is. 30:20; Eph. 4:8-13).

For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you.

²⁰ And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers.²¹ Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:19-21

IV. What are the requirements for doctrine?

A. Doctrine must be sound (I Tim. 1:10; II Tim. 4:3-4; Tit. 2:1).

*For the time will come when they will not endure **sound doctrine**, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. II Timothy 4:3-4*

B. Doctrine must be pure (Tit. 2:6-8). No mixture.

*Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing **integrity [lit. purity]**, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.*

C. Doctrine must be based on Scripture (II Tim. 3:14-17).

D. Doctrine must be practiced or obeyed (Rom. 6:17; Mt. 16:12; 23:1-3; Jam. 1:17-25).

*But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. Romans 6:17*

A lot of knowledge by itself can turn us into good Pharisees if we do not observe what we know.

Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. Matthew 23:1-3

We are self deceived if we think that knowing the truth is the same thing as practicing the truth.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22-25

V. What should be our attitude toward doctrine and the Word of God?

Nehemiah 8:1-6

Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. ² So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month. ³ Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

⁴ So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiyah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all

the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God.

Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁷ Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodijah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, and the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law; and the people stood in their place. ⁸ So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep." For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹¹ So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved." ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink, to send portions and rejoice greatly, because they understood the words that were declared to them.

A. We should hunger for the Word (Mt. 5:6; Job 23:12).

I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food. Job 23:12

B. We should desire spiritual understanding of the Word (Neh. 8:2).

C. We should be attentive to the Word (Neh. 8:3).

D. We should be respectful to the Word (Neh. 8:5).

E. We should be responsive to the Word (Neh.8:6).

These also who erred in spirit will come to understanding, and those who complained will learn doctrine.” Isaiah 29:24

**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;
The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them Your servant is warned,
And in keeping them there is great reward.
Psalm 19:7-11**

Lesson 3-8

The Doctrine of Scripture

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

II Timothy 3:16-17, NIV

I. What are the various names and titles given to the Bible, the Word of God?

- A. THE BIBLE: The word “Bible” come from the Greek word *biblios* which simply means “book” (John 20:30; Heb. 10:7; Rev. 22:7, 9-10, 18-20).

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will, O God.’ ” Hebrews 10:7

The Bible is the Book of Books for it is one book consisting of 66 books. These 66 books are divided into two main sections, the Old Testament consisting of 39 books and the New Testament consisting of 27 books. It is still a best seller.

1. The book of Moses (Mark 12:26).
 2. The book of the prophets (Luke 3:4; 4:17; Acts 7:42).
 3. The book of David, the Psalms (Luke 20:42; Acts 1:20).
 4. The book of the law (Galatians 3:10).
- B. THE HOLY BIBLE: Although this term is never found in the Bible itself, it is a good term because it describes the nature of the Book of Books. The word “holy” means “separated.” This book is separated from all other books and has the ability to lead us to a Holy God. The Bible can be called the “holy book.”

1. It is a holy book when seen in contrast to all of the books of man.
2. It is a holy book because the human writers were “holy men of God” (II Pet. 1:20-21).

*...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but **holy men of God** spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

3. It is a holy book because it was inspired by the Holy Spirit (II Pet. 1:21).

4. It is a holy book because it tells of the way in which sinful man may approach a holy God, and how he might be made holy himself.
- C. THE SCRIPTURE: This word literally mean “writings” and refers specifically to the written nature of the Word of God as opposed to that which is oral (Matthew 21:42; 22:29; 26:54).

Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. Matthew 22:29

- D. THE WORD OF GOD: The Bible not only contains the Word of God, but it is the Word of God. It is God’s Word to His creation. It is God’s letter to man (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 4:12; I Th. 2:13).

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe...

I Thessalonians 2:13

Because the Bible is the Word of God it reflects the nature of God. A person’s word and a person’s name are synonymous.

1. God is faithful and so is His Word (I Cor. 1:9; II Pet. 1:19).

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. I Corinthians 1:9

*And so we have the prophetic word **confirmed** [a more sure word], which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts... II Peter 1:19*

This word means, “steadfast, sure, firm, stable or trustworthy.

2. God is incorruptible and so is His Word (I Pet. 1:22-23).

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...

3. God is eternal and so is His Word (I Pet. 1:25; Is. 40:8).

“All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endures forever.” I Peter 1:24-25

4. God is powerful and so is His Word (Heb. 4:12; Ps.107:20; 147:18).

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Psalm 107:20

5. God is holy and so is His Word (Rom. 1:2; II Tim. 3:15).

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures... Romans 1:2

6. God is creative and so is His Word (Ps. 33:6).

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

7. God is good and so is His Word (Iss 39:8; Heb. 6:5).

...and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come... Hebrews 6:5

8. God is righteous and so is His Word (Ps. 33:4).

For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in truth.

9. God is true and so is His Word (Ps. 119:43,160).

The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. Psalm 119:160

10. God is unchanging and so is His Word (Ps. 119:89).

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations.

11. God is light and so is His Word (Ps. 119:105).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

12. God is spirit and so is His Word (John 6:63).

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life

13. God is fire and so is His Word (Heb. 12:29; Jer. 23:29).

“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” Jeremiah 23:29

14. God is pure and so is His Word (Ps. 119:140; Pro. 30:5).

Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it. Psalm 119:140

*Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.
Proverbs 30:5*

15. God is the source of life and so is His Word (Ps. 119:50).

This is my comfort in my affliction, or Your word has given me life.

16. God is awe inspiring and so is His Word (Ps. 119:161).

Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word.

17. God is the source of hope and so is His Word (Ps. 130:5; 119:74, 81, 114).

Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your word. Psalm 119:74

My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word. Psalm 119:81

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. Psalm 119:114

18. God is to be feared and so is His Word (Is. 66:2, 5).

For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,” Says the LORD. “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word. Isaiah 66:2

19. God never fails and neither does His Word (Is. 55:10-11; Jer. 1:12).

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10-11

- E. THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS: The word “testament” means “will” or “covenant.” This book contains God’s heritage or God’s will to man (Ex. 24:7; II Cor. 3:14). The Bible gives of a record of God’s covenants with man and how man can enter into the provisions of those covenants.

Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.” Exodus 24:7-8

But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.

II Corinthians 3:14

- F. THE ORACLES OF GOD: The word “oracle” means “speaking place.” God presently speaks to us through Jesus Christ His Son (Heb. 1:1-2), but it is the Word of God that is the means through which He speaks. If we want to know what God says, we should consult the oracles of the Word of God (Rom. 3:2).

Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

Romans 3:2

II. What does the Bible say concerning itself?

- A. The Bible claims to be divinely inspired (II Tim. 3:16; Ex. 17:14). The Bible says that all Scripture is literally “God-breathed.”

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [lit. God-Breathed]. II Timothy 3:16

1. Moses understood that he was writing the word of God (Ex. 17:14; Deut. 4:2; 17:18; 18:18-20; 28:58).

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua...” Exodus 17:14

2. David understood that he was at times inspired to write (I Chr. 28:19).

“All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.”

3. The various prophets recognized that they were speaking the very word of God.

- Jeremiah (1:9)

Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: “Behold, I have put My words in your mouth.

- Isaiah (1:10)
- Ezekiel (2:7; 3:10)
- Daniel (10:9-10)
- Hosea (1:1)
- Joel (1:1)
- Amos (3:1)
- Obadiah (1:1)
- Micah (1:1)
- Habakkuk (2:2)
- Zephaniah (1:1)
- Haggai (1:1)
- Zechariah (1:1)
- Malachi (1:1)

The key phrases in the life of the prophets was, “The word of the Lord came...”, “The burden of the Lord came to...” and “Thus says the Lord...”

4. The New Testament writers indicate that they accepted the Old Testament writers as being inspired by God.
 - a. They continually use the Old Testament to prove or validate their teachings as if the authority of the Scriptures was unquestioned (Acts 2:16ff; 2:25, 29; 3:22, 24; Acts 15:15).

And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written...

Acts 15:15

- b. They state the fact of inspiration as it applied to the only Scripture that they had, the Old Testament (II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20-21).

That no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. II Peter 1:20-21

5. The New Testament writers also claimed to be speaking the Word of God.
 - a. Jesus, who was the Son of God and who was sent from God, declared that He did not speak His own words but that all that He spoke came from God (John 12:47-50; 14:24; 17:8).

And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I

have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

John 12:47-50

- b. Paul who wrote most of the New Testament claimed that what he spoke were the very words of God (I Cor. 2:13; I Th. 2:13, See also II Th. 2:15; 3:14).

For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe. I Thessalonians 2:13

- c. John declared the faithfulness of his witness to the word (I John 1:3-4).

...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

- d. Peter attests to the fact of inspiration (II Pet. 1:21).

- B. The Bible claims to be the final authority and, hence, the final court of appeal and only source and norm for all doctrine.

- 1. We are not to add anything to what God has said (Deut. 4:2; Josh. 23:6). This rules out all of those cults that place the books of other men or religious traditions on the same level as the Word of God (e.g. The Book of Mormon).

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 4:2

- 2. We are not to take anything away from the declarations of God (Rev. 22:18-19). This rules out all of those who accept only a portion of the Bible as having authority in their lives.

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- 3. We are not to formulate doctrines that are contrary to the Word of God. All other authorities must submit to the declarations of the Word of God (Gal. 1:6-9).

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

- a. The church and its tradition must not be our source of doctrine (Mt. 15:9; Mark 7:1-13).

Jesus did not have much use for tradition if it nullified the Word of God. Whenever our traditions and the word of God disagree, we must abandon our tradition and go with the clearly revealed Word of God.

Read: Mark 7:1-13

- b. Our powers of reason or rationalism must not be the source of our doctrine. Many divine truths will never be discovered or be acceptable to the rational mind (I Cor. 2:14).

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

- c. Our experiences must not be that which determines our doctrine. There are such things as lying signs and wonders (Acts 8:9-10; II Th. 2:9).
- Simon appeared to be of God because of his miracles (Acts 8:9-10).
 - Satan can produce lying signs and wonders (II Th. 2:9).
 - We have something more sure than experiences (II Pet. 1:16-21).

Peter could have used his experience on the mount of transfiguration to be that which defined his doctrine. But he indicated that we have something more certain than the greatest of experiences.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” ¹⁸And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private

interpretation,²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. I Peter 1:16-21

- d. Private or prophetic revelations must not be the source of Christian doctrine. All such revelations or prophecy must be tested against the clear teaching of the Bible (Is. 8:19-20).

And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

The written Word of God is the ultimate criterion for judging prophecy, dreams or other “revelations”. If the prophetic word is not in harmony with the Scripture it is to be rejected. Failure to do this can cause people to run the risk of placing prophecy on the same level as the Word of God. This will cause instability and will open the person up to being seriously misled.

- C. The Bible demands obedience as only God can expect (Luke 24:25-27; John 8:31-32; 12:48).

Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Luke 24:25

III. Why is the Bible necessary?

The Bible is absolutely necessary for man to have an intimate knowledge of God. If God would not reveal Himself to man, there would be no way in which man could know God.

- A. God has revealed Himself to man by primarily three avenues:

- 1. God has revealed Himself to man in **creation** (Rom. 1:18-23; Ps. 19:1-6).

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:18-23

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. Psalm 19:1-2

- a. This source of revelation tells us that there is a God.
- b. This source of revelation demands that we respect and fear God.
- c. This source of revelation reveals His power.
- d. This source of revelation cannot reveal God's person, which is, His nature, character and attributes.
- e. If this is the only source of revelation on which we have to draw, it leads to idolatry or the worship of the creation of God rather than the God of creation (Romans 1:25ff.).

2. God has revealed Himself to man through the **conscience** (Rom. 2:11-16).

For God does not show favoritism. ¹² God will punish the Gentiles when they sin, even though they never had God's written law. And he will punish the Jews when they sin, for they do have the law. ¹³ For it is not merely knowing the law that brings God's approval. Those who obey the law will be declared right in God's sight. ¹⁴ Even when Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, instinctively follow what the law says, they show that in their hearts they know right from wrong. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written within them, for their own consciences either accuse them or tell them they are doing what is right. ¹⁶ The day will surely come when God, by Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life.
-NLT

- a. This source of revelation tells us that God is a moral being, that is, a being having laws or principles.
- b. This source of revelation is not always accurate because of man's fallen condition and the fact that his conscience may be faulty as a result (Tit. 1:15; I Tim. 4:2).

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. Titus 1:15-16

- They may have a defiled conscience (Tit. 1:15).
 - They may have a seared conscience (I Tim. 4:2).
- c. This source of revelation fails to reveal God's person or character.

- d. If this is the only source of revelation that we have to draw upon we will attempt to approach God by working righteousness which can never satisfy the demands of a holy God. To offend God in one point makes a man guilty of all. All of our righteousness is as filthy rags. The conscience can only be cleansed by the blood of Christ (Heb. 10:22).

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled **from an evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.*

3. God has revealed Himself to man by **divine intervention** (Heb. 1:1-2; Num. 7:89; II Sam. 23:2).

Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him. Numbers 7:89

If man is to know God, God must take the initiative and reveal Himself to man. God has done this in His Word—the Bible. It is through the Word of God that we can know God's nature and the plan that He has for our lives.

- B. It is only by the means of the Scripture that we can know and experience salvation (II Tim. 3:15; Rom. 10:17).

They are able to make us *wise for salvation* (II Tim. 3:15).

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17)

1. It is the Scripture that gives us the testimony of the love of God incarnate, our redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:39; Luke 24:27, 44).
 2. It is by the hearing of the Word of God that faith comes alive in our hearts (Rom. 10:17; Acts 17:2-3).
 3. It is the Word of God that is the incorruptible seed that is planted into our hearts that leads to the new birth (Luke 8:11; I Pet. 1:23).
- C. The Scriptures are able to give us a confident hope for the future (Rom. 15:4). If we did not know God's nature and how to enter into His plan for us and eternal salvation, we would have nothing to which to look forward. We would truly be without hope and without God in the world.

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

IV. What are some symbols connected with the Word of God and what do they tell us?

- A. The Word of God is a **hammer** (Jer. 23:29). It is able to break up and make an impression on hard hearts.

“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”

- B. The Word of God is a **mirror** (Jam. 1:22-25). It reveals to man his true spiritual condition.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- C. The Word of God is a **two-edged sword** (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). It works for us to bring victory to our lives. It works on us to convict and divide (II Tim. 3:16; Jam. 1:23-24).

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner [lit. judge or critic] of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

- D. The Word of God is a **judge** (Heb. 4:12) (In the Greek, the word for “discerner” literally means “critic” or “judge”). The Word of God passes right judgment on the innermost nature of man. It is like an umpire or the one who calls the shots.

- E. The Word of God is **water** (John 15:3; Eph. 5:26). It refreshes, cleanses and purifies the soul from the defilements of sin.

- F. The Word of God is **seed** (Luke 8:11; I Pet. 1:22-23). It is sown in the heart to bring forth a spiritual harvest.

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, ²³having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. I Peter 1:22-23

- G. The Word of God is **food** (Jer. 15:16). It is that which imparts strength to the spiritual man (Deut. 8:3; Ps. 119:103; Job 23:12).

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:16

1. It is milk for babes (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-13).

Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. I Peter 2:1-3

2. It is bread for the mature (Is. 55:1-2; Mt. 4:4).

So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3

3. It is strong meat or solid food for the adult (I Cor. 3:2; Heb. 5:12-14).

4. It is as sweet and delightful as honey (Ps. 19:10; 119:103).

How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Psalm 119:103

- H. The Word of God is **a lamp** (Ps. 119:105; Pro. 6:23; II Pet. 1:19).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

1. It imparts life to darkened man (John 6:63; II Cor. 3:18).
2. It exposes areas of sin in our lives (Heb. 4:12-13).
3. It gives direction and guidance (Pro. 6:22-23).

- I. The Word of God is **true riches** (Ps. 19:10; 119:72). It makes the possessor rich and wise.

The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.

Psalm 119:72

- J. The Word of God is **a fire** (Jer. 20:9; 23:29).

Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name." But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones, I was weary of holding it back, and I could not. Jeremiah 20:9

1. It warms the heart.
2. It gives zeal for service.

3. It exposes the wood, hay and stubble in our lives (I Cor. 3:12-15).

V. What is meant by “plenary, verbal inspiration?”

- A. The word “plenary” means “full” or “complete.” Plenary inspiration means that the entire Bible is totally inspired by God.
 1. Inspiration does not merely apply to portions of the Bible, but it applies to the entire book.
 2. Inspiration does not merely apply to doctrinal issues, but it applies to every area covered.
- B. The word “verbal” means “relating to words.”
 1. Verbal inspiration means that God not only gave the subject matter to be recorded, but the very words that are used are inspired of God (Jer. 1:9; I Th. 2:13; I Chr. 28:11-12,19).
 2. Verbal inspiration does not mean that the writers were in a trance and that their personalities were totally overruled by the Spirit.
 3. Verbal inspiration means that the Scripture is perfectly inerrant (without error) in all of its words and every one of its words (John 10:35b; Mt. 5:17-19; Acts 24:14).

John 10:35 says that “*the Scripture cannot be broken*” or annulled.

Paul said that he believed “*all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets*” (Acts 24:14).

“For 40 different men to write 66 books in three languages over a period of 1600 years and have them become one harmonious book is humanly impossible. The unity and progression of thought together with the absence of contradiction indicates that the Bible really had only one author.”

--Kevin Conner

- C. The word “inspiration” means “God-breathed” (II Tim.3:16-17; II Pet. 1:21; II Sam.23:2).

VI. What is the difference between inspiration, illumination and revelation?

- A. **Revelation** is the act of communicating divine knowledge to man (Deut. 29:29). The Bible is not man’s thoughts about God, but God revealing Himself to man. In such a

case it would usually involve the communication of knowledge that could not otherwise be known.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

- B. **Illumination** is the divine ability to understand that which is given by revelation (I Pet. 1:10-12; Luke 24:32, 45). Many of the prophets of old had revelation but did not have illumination on their revelation.

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.

- C. **Inspiration** of Scripture is the divine ability to write down revelation without making a mistake (II Pet. 1:21).

1. Inspiration has to do with the recording of the truth—the process.
2. Inspiration was the power that enabled men to write things accurately in a book (Ex. 17:14; Jer.30:2).

“Inspiration is the strong, conscious inbreathing of God into men, qualifying them to give utterance to truth. It is God speaking through men, and the Old Testament is therefore just as much the Word of God as though God spoke every single word of it with His own lips. The Scriptures are the result of divine inbreathing, just as human speech is uttered by the breathing through a man’s mouth.” -- Great Doctrines of the Bible, William Evans

- D. The believer receives **illumination** on the **revelation** which was given by **inspiration**.

VII. What are some proofs for the inspiration of the Scripture?

- A. There are many internal proofs for inspiration.
1. The Bible claims to be inspired (II Tim.3:15-16).
 2. The phrase “thus says the Lord” occurs over 2000 times. The phrase “God said” or “the Lord said” in one form or another occurs over 3800 times.

3. The Old Testament portions that are referred to in the New Testament are referred to in such a way as to indicate inspiration (Mt. 1:22; Heb. 3:7).

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying... Matthew 1:22

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice..."
Hebrews 3:7

4. Christ and the Apostles treated the Scripture as being inspired (Matthew 8:16-17).
5. There is great authority suggested in the phrase "it is written" (Mt. 4:7; Luke 4:10; Gal. 3:10).

B. There are also many external proofs for the inspiration of the Scriptures.

1. One of the greatest proofs is the fact of fulfilled prophecy.
 - a. Note a few messianic prophecies that were fulfilled, in some cases over 500 years after they were uttered.

- Christ to be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Mt. 2:1-8).
- Christ to be manifest after 483 years (Dan. 9:25; Mark 1:15).
- Christ to be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:13; Mt. 26:14-15; 27:3-10).
- Christ to die by crucifixion (Ps. 22; Is. 53). (Note: Crucifixion as a form of execution was not even practiced when David wrote this Psalm).
- Christ's garments divided (Ps. 22:18; John 19:23; Mt. 27:35).
- Christ's burial with the rich (Is. 53:9; Mt. 27:57-60).

- b. Many other amazing prophecies of the Bible proved to be very accurate.

- The prophecy of Isaiah and Daniel concerning Cyrus and the fall of Babylon given over 100 years before it happened (Is. 44:28-45:1; Jer. 50-51; Dan. 1-5).

Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, and he shall perform all My pleasure, saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," and to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' "Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors... Isaiah 44:28-45:1

- Ezekiel 12:13 is a remarkable prophecy that was fulfilled to the letter (See: II Kings 25:7).

I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there. Ezekiel 12:13

But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king [Zedekiah], and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. ⁶So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. ⁷Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon. II Kings 25:7

How could Zedekiah be brought to the land but not see it? Because they put his eyes out before they brought him to the land!

- The prophecy of Jesus concerning the destruction of Jerusalem (Luke 21:20-24).

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²²For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

2. The miraculous spread of the Gospel is a proof of the truth of what is claimed.
3. The fact that no other religion in the world transforms men like Christianity attests to the validity and power of the Word of God.
4. The miraculous preservation of the Bible in spite of numerous attempts throughout history to destroy it attests to its validity.
5. The fact that the early apostles who would have known the truth or falsehood of the resurrection were willing to die rather than to forsake the truth attests to its validity. No one would be so willing to die for a lie.
6. The fact that the Bible records accurate scientific facts prior to their universal acceptance by the scientific community attests to the fact that this was composed by a mind that had and, indeed, has all of the hidden knowledge and wisdom.
 - a. The Bible tells us that the earth is round and hangs in space (Job 26:7; Is. 40:22).

He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.
Job 26:7

It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. Isaiah 40:22

- b. The Bible tells us that the winds have regular circuits and that rain clouds are only evaporated water (Job 36:26-29; Eccl. 1:6-7).

“Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered. For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man. Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, the thunder from His canopy?” Job 36:26-29

The wind goes toward the south, and turns around to the north; the wind whirls about continually, and comes again on its circuit. All the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again. Ecclesiastes 1:6-7

- c. The Bible speaks of an empty place in the North (Job 26:7). Modern telescopes have found this to be true (i.e. the black hole).
- d. The Bible tells us that the stars are innumerable (Gen. 15:5; Heb. 11:12). Galileo was the first scientist to teach this.

Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. Hebrews 11:12

- e. The Bible is the only ancient book in the entire world that insisted on quarantining contagious diseases (Lev. 13:45-46).

NOTE: The Bible is not a scientific book, but when it makes a scientific statement, that statement can always be relied upon.

- 7. The fact that the Bible records accurate historical data which has only recently been accepted by modern researchers.
 - a. The discovery of the Hittite civilization (1906).
 - b. The discovery of proof of the four kings of Genesis 14 (1920).
 - c. The discovery of the city of Nineveh
 - d. Etc.

Doctrinal Statement

We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the accepted canon of the Scriptures as originally given and that they are infallible and uniquely authoritative and free from error of any sort in all matters with which they deal, including scientific and historical as well as moral and theological issues.

**Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.
Psalm 1:1-3 – NKJV**

Appendix to Lesson 2,

Canonicity

A. Canonical Questions

While no specific criteria were established as a test of the canonicity, it is clear that some of the following served as definite factors in a book's general acceptance.

1. Is it authoritative?

The book claims to be authoritative with statements like, "The Lord said..." or "God spoke..." etc.

Some books are obviously shallow, magical or fanciful and bear no ring of truth.

2. Is it prophetic?

Was it written by God by a recognized prophet or apostle? Is the person through whom the revelation came a true man of God in touch with the Spirit of God? Where its prophetic elements accurate?

3. Is it authentic?

Does the book tell the truth about God, man, etc. on the basis of what we know of previous revelation? Is it a record of facts as they actually occurred?

Many second rate books existed, but they did not seem genuine.

4. Is it dynamic?

Does the book have a touch of God on it? Does the power of God accompany the book? Is it alive and active?

5. Was it received?

Has the book been accepted generally by the people of God? Was there any evidence of initial acceptance? Was it also accepted long term?

B. The Old Testament Canon

The Old Testament Canon was most likely completed by 400 B.C. possibly as late as 200 B.C. Because all of the books were part of the same Jewish history they were gradually added one to another over the years because they bore the marks listed above. The Jewish Old Testament contained three divisions, the Law, the Prophets and the Writings.

C. The New Testament Canon

The New Testament Canon developed quite differently. But the criteria above played a huge role. No council made an official declaration until the late 300's A.D. Under the pressure from the demands of the early church, rising heresy in the church, missionary activity that demanded the spread of the truth, and the political demand placed on the church by the empire, the councils of Hippo (A.D. 393) and Carthage (A.D. 397) affirmed the same list that Athanasius had put forth as definitive in A.D. 368.

Lesson 9-14 The Doctrine of God

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

I. What the some of the different philosophies of man concerning the nature of God?

Note: All but one of these philosophies are refuted by the very first verse of the Bible:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

- A. **Atheism.** An atheist is one who denies the existence of God (Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:28). It should be noted that a denial of a fact does not change a fact.

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” Psalm 14:1a

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge... Romans 1:28

It has been said that “there are no atheists in the foxhole.”

It has also been said that “an atheist cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman.”

A.W. Tozer said, “Were every man on earth to become an atheist, it could not affect God in any way. He is what he is in himself without regard to any other. To believe in him adds nothing to his perfections; to doubt him takes nothing away.”

Someone once said, “Sometimes a nation abolishes God, but fortunately God is more tolerant.”

- B. **Agnosticism.** An agnostic does not deny the existence of God, but denies that man can know for sure one way or another if there is a god.

The Agnostic’s Prayer

“Oh God, if there is a God, save my soul, if I have a soul.” J.E. Renan

- C. **Deism.** A deist acknowledges that there is a God who created the world and its natural laws, but it denies that God has anything to do with the sustaining of or interaction with His creation. Hence God is the Maker but not the Keeper (Ps. 121).

I will lift up my eyes to the hills— from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He

who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

- D. **Pantheism.** A pantheist believes that God is not a personality, but that all laws, forces and manifestations of the self-existing universe are God. In other words, God is in everything and everything is God. For the pantheist, God and creation (or nature) are synonymous. It makes nature God and misses the God of nature. It inspires the worship of the creation rather than the creator.
- E. **Polytheism.** A polytheist believes that there are many gods. This was a very common form of religion among the Greeks and Romans and it is prevalent among many other cultures of the world today. The Bible speaks much about this form of religion (Deut. 5:7; Ex. 15:11; Josh. 23:7; Ps. 115:1-8; 135:15-18).

You shall have no other gods before Me. Deuteronomy 5:7

Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11

Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left, ⁷ and lest you go among these nations, these who remain among you. You shall not make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause anyone to swear by them; you shall not serve them nor bow down to them, ⁸ but you shall hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day. Joshua 23:6-8

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth. ² Why should the Gentiles say, “So where is their God?” ³ But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. ⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. ⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; ⁶ they have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷ they have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter through their throat. ⁸ Those who make them are like them; so is everyone who trusts in them. Psalm 115:1-8

- F. **Dualism.** A dualist believes that there are two gods. There is a good god and an evil god. For the dualist, both gods are equal in power and influence and are in constant struggle for dominance and control.
- G. **Tri-theism.** A tri-theist believes that the three persons of the Trinity are three separate gods. It is really the result of the natural mind trying to understand the mystery of an eternal God.

- H. **Monotheism.** A monotheist believes in one eternal God who is in control of the universe and can be pleased or angered. Unfortunately, this knowledge alone is insufficient to bring people to a saving knowledge of God (Jam. 2:19).

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! James 2:19

II. What should be our attitude concerning these differing philosophies?

- A. We should avoid dwelling on mere rational approaches or vain philosophies which according to the Bible are “unprofitable” (Col. 2:8). If our faith rests on what we can understand with our reason, our faith will only be extended as far as our reason will permit (I Cor. 2:1-5).

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. Colossians 2:8

- B. We should realize that natural man will never be able to understand the things of God unless God Himself reveals them to him (I Cor. 2:11-14; Eccl. 8:17).

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. ¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. I Corinthians 2:11-14

- C. We should realize that the natural man is likely to conceptualize God in such a way as to sooth his own conscience (Mic. 4:5; Ps. 106:20).

For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. Micah 4:5

They made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the molded image. Thus they changed their glory into the image of an ox that eats grass. Psalm 106:20

You become like whatever you worship.

- D. Ultimately any unbiblical approach to explaining God is man’s attempt to create God in his own image rather than accepting God’s declaration about Himself. We can be guilty of making God in our own image and likeness.

III. What are some of the major attempts to prove the existence of God outside of the Scripture?

There have been many attempts to prove the existence of God apart from Scripture. Philosophers from ancient times have been intrigued by the subject of God.

- A. **The Cosmological Argument.** This is the argument from cause and effect. All of the natural world operates on this principle. The question is, “We know the world exists, but where did it come from?” Our experience tells us that there is a cause or power behind everything. The existence of creation itself tells us that there must be a maker (Ps. 19:1).

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

- B. **The Intuitional Argument.** This is the argument from common consent. There is an inborn knowledge of God in every person. Even a child has a sense of God. All cultures of the world seem to attest to a belief that there is a God. The evidence for the existence of God is in man himself.
- C. **The Teleological Argument.** This is the argument from design and purpose. There is a perfect design in the universe. From the snowflake with its intricate design to the functions of the human body there is a strong sense of design. The inter-dependence of all of the species of both animal and plant life suggest an intelligent creator.
- D. **The Anthropological Argument.** This is the argument from the existence of mankind. Man is an incredible masterpiece of creation with amazing moral and intellectual capabilities. Man must have been created by a being superior to him. The inferior always proceeds from the superior—the creator is always greater than the created.
- E. **The Biological Argument.** This is argument from the fact of life. Life can only come from pre-existent life. Life cannot originate from dead matter. All life must go back to some source of life (John 1:1-4).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was in the beginning with God.³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

IV. What is wrong with trying to prove the existence of God?

- A. This usually ends up in an argument and confusion. If people do not have the faith or disposition to believe, they will never find a relationship to God through the mind. They must have a personal revelation of God.

B. This is something that the Bible itself never does. Nowhere in the Bible is there an attempt to prove the existence of God.

1. The Bible simply declares, assumes or affirms it (Gen. 1:1; John 1:1).
2. The Bible declares that this knowledge of God is given to every one (Rom. 1:18-23, 28, 32).

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:18-23

Voltaire said in 1738 in his book on metaphysics, “In the opinion that there is a God, there are difficulties; but in the contrary opinion there are absurdities.”

V. How can finite man know the nature and person of an infinite God?

There is only one way for finite man to know the nature and person of an infinite God—God must take the initiative and reveal Himself to man (Job 11:7-9; 37:23).

“Can you solve the mysteries of God? Can you discover everything there is to know about the Almighty? Such knowledge is higher than the heavens—but who are you? It is deeper than the underworld—what can you know in comparison to him? It is broader than the earth and wider than the sea. Job 11:7-9, NLT

A. The knowledge of God is foundational to any approach to God (Heb. 11:6).

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

B. The knowledge of God alone is insufficient in itself to bring salvation. Even the devils believe (Jam. 2:19).

C. The knowledge of the person and nature of God can only come to man as God reveals it to him (Mt. 11:27; Eph. 4:17-21). God has done this in the Bible—the Word of God.

All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Matthew 11:27

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,¹⁸ having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart... Ephesians 4:17-18

VI. What are some of the Scriptural definitions of God and what do they have in common?

- A. God is **Spirit** (John 4:24; I Tim. 1:17; Heb. 11:27; I John 4:12). God is a spirit being and therefore invisible to the natural eye.

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 4:24

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. I Timothy 1:17

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. Hebrews 11:27

No one has seen God at any time. I John 4:12a

This is one reason why God forbid any images to be made of Him (Deut. 4:15-18).

“Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,¹⁶ lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female,¹⁷ the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air,¹⁸ the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. Deuteronomy 4:15-18

- B. God is **Light** (I John 1:5; I Tim. 6:15-16; Jam. 1:17). Light speaks of God’s majesty, glory, holiness, purity and brilliance.

*This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** and in Him is no darkness at all.⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. I John 1:5-7*

*I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate,¹⁴ that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,¹⁵ which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,¹⁶ who alone has immortality, dwelling in **unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. I Timothy 6:13-16*

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the **Father of lights**, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. James 1:17*

- C. God is **Love** (I John 4:8). This description reveals the heart of God. He does not have love; He is the personification of love (I Cor. 13:4-8).

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**.⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. I John 4:7-11*

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud⁵ or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged.⁶ It is never glad about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.⁷ Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.⁸ Love will last forever. I Corinthians 13:4-8a, NLT

- D. God is a **Consuming Fire** (Heb. 12:29; Ex. 24:17; Deut. 9:3; 4:24). God often manifest Himself in connection with fire (e.g. The Cherubim and Flaming Sword, The Burning Bush, the Pillar of Fire, Tongues of Fire). Fire speaks of holiness and justice.

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our **God is a consuming fire**. Hebrews 12:28-29*

*Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. The sight of the glory of the LORD was like **a consuming fire** on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. Exodus 24:16-17*

1. He is a consuming fire in His passion for His people.

For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. Deuteronomy 4:24

2. He is a consuming fire against our enemies that seem as giants (Deut. 9:3).

'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?' Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you. Deuteronomy 9:2-3

3. He is a consuming fire in His hatred for and judgment on sin (Is. 33:14; 30:27).

The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" Isaiah 33:14

- E. The thing that all of these images have in common is that they are all outgoing, reaching out and dispelling darkness.
 1. God is **Spirit**. He is effulgent and cannot be contained.
 2. God is **Light**. He is always penetrating and dispelling darkness.
 3. God is **Love**. He is continually reaching out for an object to love on which to bestow His love.
 4. God is a **Consuming Fire**. He burns passionately for His people and His eternal purpose. Fire has a hunger that always seeks for more.

VII. What does the Bible tell us about the nature of God?

A. God has Essential Attributes.

There are certain natural attributes or qualities that belong to God that separate Him from all other being in the universe.

1. God is **eternal**, that is, He has no beginning and no end (Gen. 21:33; Deut. 33:27; Ps. 90:2; 102:24-27; Is. 40:28; 44:6; Hab. 1:12; Rev. 11:17). He has always been and He always will be.

Then Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there called on the name of the LORD, the Everlasting God. Genesis 21:33

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...
Deuteronomy 33:27a

LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. Psalm 90:1-2

I said, “O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations.”²⁵ Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed.²⁷ But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.

Psalm 102:24-27

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. Isaiah 40:28

“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.’ Isaiah 44:6

3. God is **immutable**, that is, He never changes (Num. 23:19; I Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; 6:17-18; 13:8; Jam. 1:17).

God has no need to change because you cannot improve on perfection.

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:6-7

Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail. Hebrews 1:12

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8

3. God is **independent**, that is, He is totally self-sufficient (John 1:1-3).
 - a. God depends on no one for His existence (Ps. 36:9; John 5:26) because He is the fountain of life.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. Psalm 36:9

For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself... John 5:26

- b. God depends on no one for His knowledge (Heb. 4:13; Is. 40:12-14) because He is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.

And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

- c. God depends on no one for His actions (Gen. 1:1; Acts 17:24-28) because there is nothing that He cannot do.

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶ And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Acts 17:24-28

- d. God depends on no one for His supply (I Tim. 6:15-16; Acts 17:25) because He has need of nothing.

4. God is **omnipotent**, that is, He has power over everything (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32:17, 27; Mt. 19:26).

And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' Is anything too hard for the LORD?"

Genesis 18:13-14

'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, you have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. Jeremiah 32:17

Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me? Jeremiah 32:26-27

But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

- a. God has power over nature (Job 9:4-9; Ps. 33:6-9; Na. 1:3-6).

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. ⁹ For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. Psalm 33:6-9

*The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way in the **whirlwind** and in the **storm**, and the **clouds** are the dust of His feet. ⁴ He rebukes the **sea** and makes it dry, and dries up all the **rivers**. Bashan and Carmel wither, and the flower of Lebanon*

wilts. ⁵ The **mountains** quake before Him, the **hills** melt, and the **earth** heaves at His presence, yes, the **world** and all who dwell in it. Nahum 1:3-5

- b. God has power over man (Jam. 4:12-15).

There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another? ¹³ Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; ¹⁴ whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

¹⁵ Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." ¹⁶ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

James 4:12-15

- c. God has power over all angels (Dan. 4:35).

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?" Daniel 4:35

- d. God has power over Satan (Job 1:12; 2:6).

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." Job 1:12

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." Job 2:6

- e. God has power over death (Eph. 1:19-21; I Cor. 15:24-26; Rev. 1:18).

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. I Corinthians 15:24-26

"Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Revelation 1:17-18

5. God is **omniscient**, that is, He knows everything (Rom. 11:33; I John 3:20). (Note: Much of the following is taken from *What the Bible Teaches* by R.A. Torrey.)

- a. He sees all that occurs in every place and keeps watch upon the evil and the good (Pro. 5:21; 15:3; Jer. 32:19; Heb. 4:13).

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good. Proverbs 15:3

- b. He knows everything that occurs in nature (Ps. 147:4-5; Mt. 10:29; 6:8).

He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name. Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. Psalm 147:4-5

Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Matthew 10:29

For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.
Matthew 6:8

- c. He knows the ways of man (Job 34:21; Pro. 5:21; Jer. 16:17).

For His eyes are on the ways of man, and He sees all his steps. Job 34:21

For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes. Jeremiah 16:17

- d. He knows all of man's deeds and experiences (Ps. 33:13-15; 139:2-3).

¹³ *The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men.* ¹⁴ *From the place of His dwelling He looks on all the inhabitants of the earth;* ¹⁵ *He fashions their hearts individually; He considers all their works. Psalm 33:13-15*

- e. He knows all of man's words (Ps. 139:4).

O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ² *You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.* ³ *You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.* ⁴ *For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.*
Psalm 139:1-4

- f. He knows all of man's sorrows (Ex. 3:7).

And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. Exodus 3:7

- g. He knows all our thoughts (Ps. 139:1-2; I Chr. 28:9; 29:17; 1 Sam. 16:7; 1 Kin. 8:39; Jer. 11:20; 17:10; 20:12; Rev. 2:23).

“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. I Chronicles 28:9

But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, and see the mind and heart... Jeremiah 20:12

- h. God knows for all eternity what will be for all eternity (Acts 15:18).

“Known to God from eternity are all His works. Acts 15:18

6. God is **omnisapient**, that is, He possesses all wisdom (Rom. 11:33-36; 16:27; I Tim. 1:17).

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?” ³⁶For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:33-36

7. God is **omnipresent**, that is, He is everywhere in the universe at all times (Ps. 139:7-12; Jer. 23:23-24).

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me, "Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. Psalm 139:7-12

Am I a God who is only in one place?” asks the LORD. “Do they think I cannot see what they are doing? Can anyone hide from me? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” asks the LORD. Jeremiah 23:23-24, NLT

B. God has **Moral Attributes**.

There are certain moral attributes or qualities that belong to God. These in a sense balance out the essential attributes. What would it be like to have an evil god with such power?

1. God is absolutely **holy** (Ps. 22:3; 99:5, 9; Is. 5:16; 6:3; Zeph. 3:5; John 17:11; I Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:8-11).

God cannot sin and He cannot tolerate sin. He is sinless perfection in the strictest

sense. Those who want to live with God must also be holy (Amos 3:3).

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at His footstool—He is holy. Psalm 99:5

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!” ⁴And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Isaiah 6:1-4

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹“You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

Revelation 4:8-11

2. God is and has perfect **love** (Jer. 31:3; John 3:16; I John 4:8, 16; Rom. 5:8; 8:39).

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:37-39

3. God is absolutely **faithful** (I Cor. 1:9; 10:13; I Th. 5:24; Deut. 7:7-9). God is absolutely trustworthy. He always keeps His word. His faithfulness is manifest in several ways.

“For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹“Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments...” Deuteronomy 7:6-9

- a. In keeping His promises (Heb. 10:23).

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

- b. In preserving His people (I Pet. 4:19).

Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

- c. In protecting us from the evil one (II Th. 3:3).

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

- d. In chastening His children (Ps. 119:75).

I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

- e. In finishing the work He has started (I Th. 5:23-24).

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

- f. In forgiving our sins (I John 1:9).

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- g. In answering our prayers (Ps. 143:1).

Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness.

4. God is absolutely **righteous** and **just** (Deut. 32:4; Ezek. 18:19-30; Ezra 9:15; Ps. 116:5; 145:17; Dan. 9:14; John 17:25; Rev. 15:3).

Holiness has more to do with God's character as He is in Himself while righteousness and justice has to do with His character as manifested in His dealing with others.

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He. Deuteronomy 32:4

The LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. Daniel 9:14

“Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Revelation 15:3

“‘What?’ you ask. ‘Doesn’t the child pay for the parent’s sins?’ No! For if the child does what is right and keeps my laws, that child will surely live.²⁰ The one who sins is the one who dies. The child will not be punished for the parent’s sins, and the parent will not be punished for the child’s sins. Righteous people will be rewarded for their own goodness, and wicked people will be punished for their own wickedness.²¹ But if wicked people turn away from all their sins and begin to obey my laws and do what is just and right, they will surely live and not die.²² All their past sins will be forgotten, and they will live because of the righteous things they have done.

²³ “Do you think, asks the Sovereign LORD, that I like to see wicked people die? Of course not! I only want them to turn from their wicked ways and live.²⁴ However, if righteous people turn to sinful ways and start acting like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? No, of course not! All their previous goodness will be forgotten, and they will die for their sins.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The Lord isn’t being just!’ Listen to me, O people of Israel. Am I the one who is unjust, or is it you?²⁶ When righteous people turn from being good and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds.²⁷ And if wicked people turn away from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives.²⁸ They will live, because after thinking it over, they decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die.²⁹ And yet the people of Israel keep saying, ‘The Lord is unjust!’ O people of Israel, it is you who are unjust, not I.

³⁰ “Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn from your sins! Don’t let them destroy you!³¹ Put all your rebellion behind you, and get for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel?³² I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live! Ezekiel 18:19-32, NLT

5. God is full of **mercy** (Ex. 34:5-7; Ps. 86:5; 103:8; 130:7; 145:8-9; Deut. 4:31).

Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:5-7

For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. Psalm 86:5

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.
Psalm 103:8

O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.
Psalm 130:7-8

VIII. What does the Bible tell of about God's being?

A. God is one.

There is one God. He is the one and only God (Deut. 4:35; 6:4; II Sam. 7:22; Is. 43:10; 44:6; 45:5, 14, 18; I Tim. 2:5; Mark 10:18; 12:29; Eph. 4:6).

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:4

Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. I Samuel 7:22

“You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. Isaiah 43:10

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. Isaiah 44:6

For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the LORD, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:18

B. God has **plurality** of being. This is seen in several ways.

1. It is seen in the plural name “Elohim” (Gen. 1:1). Elohim is a plural noun form but it always is used with a singular verb form in the Bible.
2. It is seen in the use of plural pronouns in relation to God (Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7).

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”
Genesis 1:26

Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. Genesis 3:22

Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” Genesis 11:7

3. It is seen in other scriptural designations (Isaiah 48:16; 61:1; 63:8-10; Gen 18:1-2, 33).

“Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me.” Isaiah 48:16

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound... Isaiah 61:1

C. God is a **tri-unity** (I John 5:6-8).

This is He who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one. I John 5:6-8

1. This is affirmed by the triple expressions ascribed to God (Is. 6:3; Num. 6:24-26; Rev. 4:8; Mt. 28:19-20; I Cor. 13:14).

*“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”
Isaiah 6:3b*

“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.” Numbers 6:24-26

2. This is exemplified in man who is made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26; I Th. 5:23).

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I Thessalonians 5:23

- a. As God is one, so is man.

- b. As God is a tri-unity, so man is a tri-unity (spirit, soul, and body).
 - c. As with God, two parts are invisible and one part is visible, so it is with man (spirit and soul).
3. This is portrayed in Bible types.
- a. The Tabernacle of Moses was a triune structure consisting of outer court, holy place and most holy place (Exodus 26-27).
 - b. The Lid of the Mercy Seat was a triune structure consisting of two cherubim on either side of the mercy seat (Ex. 25:19). Christ is typified as the mercy seat (Rom. 3:25).
 - c. Aaron's rod had a triune manifestation of fruitfulness consisting of buds, blossoms and almond fruit (Num. 17:8).
 - d. Noah's ark was a triune structure (Gen. 6:16).

IX. How are the three persons of the Godhead designated in the Bible?

There are three persons in the Godhead, namely, the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT.

A. These three persons are all recognized as God.

1. The Father is God (Rom. 1:7; John 6:27; I Pet. 1:2).

I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the lands of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, the province of Asia, and Bithynia. ² God the Father chose you long ago, and the Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed Jesus Christ and are cleansed by his blood. I Peter 1:2, NLT

2. The Son is God (Heb. 1:8; Tit. 2:13-14; John 1:1, 14).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-2, 14

Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13

3. The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4).

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

- C. There is a recognized order of headship in the Godhead, but at the same time an equality of person (I Cor. 11:3; Mt. 28:19; Phil. 2:6).

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. I Corinthians 11:3

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

Philippians 2:5-7, NIV

1. God the Father sent the Son; the Son sent the Spirit.
 2. The Spirit bears witness to the Son; the Son bears witness to the Father (John 15:26; I John 5:6).
- D. These three persons are distinguished in Scriptures (Luke 3:21-22; John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7, 10, 13-15; Acts 2:33; 7:55-56; 10:38; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 2:18; 3:14-16; Phil. 3:3; Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 1:2; 3:18; Jude 20-21; Rev. 1:4-5).

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” Luke 3:21-22

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 14:26

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. Acts 2:32-33

But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” Acts 7:55-56

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:38

For through Him [Christ] we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:18

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man... Ephesians 3:14-16

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:14

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jude 20-21

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. II Corinthians 13:14

Doctrinal Statement

We believe in the eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself through the Scriptures as one God existing in three persons, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible.

Appendix to Lesson 3: The Doctrine of God

The Faithfulness of God

Compiled by Bill Scheidler

1. **God the Father and Jesus His Son are absolutely faithful (i.e. trustworthy, steadfast, reliable and constant).**

Deuteronomy 7:9

“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.”

Psalm 33:4

“For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.”

Psalm 36:5

“Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.”

Psalm 92:2

“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.”

Isaiah 49:7

“This is what the LORD says--the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel--to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers: “Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see and bow down, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

1 Corinthians 1:9

“God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.”

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:24

“The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”

2 Thessalonians 3:3

“But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.”

2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”

Hebrews 11:11

“By faith Abraham, even though he was past age-and Sarah herself was barren-was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.”

1 Peter 4:19

“So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.”

Hebrews 2:17

“For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”

Revelation 3:14-15

“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation.”

Revelation 19:11

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.”

2. What God does for me in His faithfulness (from the Psalms only)?

- Accomplishes what concerns me (Ps. 57:2; 138:8).
- Acts on my behalf (Ps. 68:28)
- Anoints my head with oil (Ps. 23:5; 92:10).
- Answers me (Ps. 20:6; 34:4; 65:5; 86:7; 91:15; 118:5, 21; 119:26; 120:1).
- Bears my burden daily (Ps. 68:19).
- Blesses me (Ps. 5:12; 67:6; 107:37; 112:2; 115:12, 13).
- Blesses me with peace (Ps. 29:11).
- Blesses my children (Ps. 147:13).
- Break off my bands (Ps. 107:14).
- Brings forth my righteousness as the light (Ps. 37:5).
- Brings me into a broad place, a place of abundance (Ps. 18:19; 66:12).
- Brings me near to Him (Ps. 65:4).
- Brings me out of darkness and the shadow of death (Ps. 71:20; 107:14).
- Brings me out of distress (Ps. 25:17).
- Causes me to lack nothing (Ps. 34:9-10).

- Causes me to rule in the midst of my enemies (Ps. 110:2).
- Chooses me for His inheritance (Ps. 33:12; 65:4).
- Comforts me (Ps. 23:1; 86:17; 94:19).
- Conceals me in times of trouble (Ps. 27:5).
- Counsels me (Ps. 16:5; 32:8).
- Covers me with His wings (Ps. 91:4).
- Crowns me with compassion, loving-kindness (Ps. 103:4) and glory (8:5).
- Deals bountifully with me (Ps. 13:6; 16:7; 140:7).
- Defeats my enemies (Ps. 21:8-12).
- Delivers me (Ps. 18:17, 43; 37:40; 91:14; 97:10).
 - From fear (34:4)
 - From trouble (Ps. 34:17-19; 54:7)
 - From death (Ps. 33:19; 56:13).
 - From destruction (Ps. 107:20).
 - From my enemies (Ps. 18:48).
 - From deadly pestilence (Ps. 91:3).
 - From the devil's traps (Ps. 91:3).
- Does great things for me (Ps. 126:2; 107:15, 21).
- Encamps around me (Ps. 34:7).
- Enlarges my heart (Ps. 119:32).
- Enlarges my steps (Ps. 18:36).
- Enlightens my eyes (Ps. 19:8).
- Establishes me (Ps. 37:23; 89:29).
- Fills my hungry soul with what is good (Ps. 107:9).
- Forgives me (Ps. 32:5; 78:38; 85:2; 86:5; 99:8; 130:4).
- Girds me with strength for battle (Ps. 18:39).
- Gives His angels charge over me (Ps. 91:11).
- Gives me eternal life (Ps. 21:4).
- Goes before me (Ps. 68:7).
- Guards me in all my ways (Ps. 91:11; 121:7; 127:1).
- Guides me (Ps. 31:3; 48:14).
- Heals me (Ps. 30:2; 103:3).
- Hears me when I call out to Him (Ps. 4:3; 22:24; 34:15-17; 40:1; 55:19; 145:19).
- Hears my prayers (Ps. 6:9; 31:22; 116:1).
- Helps me (Ps. 37:40; 86:17; 118:13; 124:8).
- Hides me in the secret place (Ps. 27:5; 31:20).
- Holds my hand (Ps. 37:24).
- Illuminates my darkness (Ps. 18:28).
- Keeps me (Ps. 145:20).
- Keeps my feet from slipping (Ps. 18:36).
- Leads me (Ps. 23:2; 31:3; 77:20; 139:10).
- Lifts me up (Ps. 27:5; 30:1).
- Redeems me (Ps. 43:20; 49:15; 103:4; 130:8).
- Remembers me (Ps. 9:12; 136:23).

- Rescues me (Ps. 18:19, 46; 34:6; 81:7; 91:15; 136:8).
- Restores me (Ps. 14:7; 19:7; 23:3; 53:6; 85:1).
- Revives me (Ps. 71:20; 119:93; 138:7).
- Saves me (Ps. 7:10; 20:6; 37:19-40; 38:22; 55:16; 91:16).
- Sets me on high places (Ps. 18:33).
- Strengthens me (Ps. 18:32; 29:11).

Lesson 15-18

The Doctrine of Satan

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.” Isaiah 14:12-15

Read: Ezekiel 28:11-19

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ¹² “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. ¹³ You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. ¹⁴ “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; and I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. ¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. ¹⁸ “You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ¹⁹ All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever.” ’ ’ ” Ezekiel 28:11-19

I. How can we apply these passages to Satan when they seem to be directed to kings of nations?

Even though these passages speak of specific historical rulers, they can be applied to Satan for the following reasons:

A. Because there are a couple of hermeneutical principles that allow for such an interpretation.

1. The Law of Double Reference.

In this principle there are occasions where the speaker is addressing the person, but is actually talking to or about the spirit power behind the person (Mt. 16:23).

2. The Law of Literal Verses Figurative Interpretation.

This principle states that the literal interpretation must be followed unless there are obvious elements that cannot be taken literally. In such cases a double meaning may apply in that it has both a literal and a symbolic significance. These passages both contain language that could not strictly apply to an earthly king.

B. Because of the nature of biblical prophecy.

Most biblical prophecy has more than one application. This is why biblical prophecy has so much meaning to us in this day. Most biblical prophecy has three applications.

1. It has the literal, contextual or local application. That is the prophecy meant something significant to the people of the day in which the prophecy was given.
2. It as a futuristic or prophetic application to the times and seasons surrounding the first coming of Christ.
3. It has an ultimate application to the times and seasons surrounding the Second coming of Christ.

See the prophecy of Joel for example—Joel 2:28-32 with Acts 2:16-21.

C. Because Jewish tradition and early church fathers suggest this interpretation.

D. Because Jesus used similar language in relation to Satan (Luke 10:18).

“The best explanation is that Ezekiel was describing Satan who was the true”king“of Tyre, the one motivating the human”ruler“of Tyre. Satan was in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-7), and his chief sin was pride (1 Tim. 3:6). He also had access to God’s presence (Job 1:6-12). Speaking of God’s judging the human”ruler“of Tyre for his pride (Ezek. 28:1-10), the prophet lamented the satanic”king“of Tyre who was also judged for his pride (vs. 11-19). Tyre was motivated by the same sin as Satan, and would suffer the same fate.” Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. 1983-c1985. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary : An Exposition of the Scriptures*. Victor Books: Wheaton, IL

“A variant of this approach, favored by several of the church fathers, is to understand for the background of the lament an account of the fall of Satan not given in Scripture but alluded to elsewhere, especially in Isa 14:12–17. Ezekiel would have been relying on his listeners/readers’ familiarity with such an account, and they would have understood the comparison between the fall of Satan and the fall of the king of Tyre. The difficulty of the text makes it unwise to insist upon a particular interpretation, but the latter traditional view appears to the present writer to account best for the language and logic of the passage.” Cooper, L. E. 2001, c1994. *Vol. 17: Ezekiel* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary . Broadman & Holman Publishers: Nashville

II. What are some of the names and titles used to describe Satan?

A. There are several names given to Satan.

1. Satan (I Chr. 21:1; II Cor. 11:14)
2. The Devil (John 8:44; Acts 10:38)
3. Lucifer, Day Star or Shining One (Is. 14:12)
4. The Serpent (Rev. 12:9; 20:2)
5. The Dragon (Rev. 12:9; 13:4).
6. Beelzebub (Mt. 10:25; 12:24, 27)

Literally this name means “Lord of Filth” or “Lord of Dung.” It is definitely a degrading term that Jesus “respectfully” used of the prince of demons.

7. Belial (II Cor. 6:15)

This word comes from a root meaning “worthlessness, wickedness or lawlessness”. It was often used to refer to someone or something that was utterly useless or vile. Later it came to be used to refer to Satan. Some believe that the man of sin or man of lawlessness in reference to the antichrist is the equivalent of this concept.

*So the **great dragon** was cast out, that **serpent** of old, called the **Devil** and **Satan**, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9*

B. There are several titles given to Satan.

1. God of this Age (II Cor. 4:4)
2. Prince or Ruler of this World (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
3. Prince and Power of the Air (Eph. 2:2).
4. The Wicked One (Mt. 13:19, 38-39)
5. The Tempter (I Th. 3:5)
6. The Accuser of the Brethren (Rev. 12:10)

III. What was Satan's original state?

A. Satan was part of God’s creation (Ezek. 28:15; Col. 1:16).

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. Ezekiel 28:15

1. As a created being he is much inferior to God.
 2. As a created being he is finite, hence not omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent or self-existent.
- B. Satan is a spirit being of the angelic order (Is. 14:12-13; Mt. 25:41; II Cor. 11:14; Rev. 12:9).

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels...” Matthew 25:41

And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.
Corinthians 11:14

1. He is, therefore, invisible, though as an angel he may manifest himself in visible form.
2. He may have been of the order of cherubim (Ezek. 28:14, 16). This reference may just refer to an exalted position. Many feel that Satan was in fact one of the Archangels.

You were the anointed cherub who covers... O covering cherub.
Ezekiel 28:14a, 16c

Cherubim seem to have had the following functions:

- Guardians (Gen. 3:24)
- Fire Bearers or Throwers (Ezek. 1:4, 13-14, 27-28; 10:2,6-7)
- Bearers of God’s Chariot/Throne (I Sam. 4:4; II Sam. 6:2; II Kgs. 19:15; Ps. 80:1; 99:1; Is. 37:16)

- C. Satan appears to have been of the highest rank among the angelic orders.
1. Satan was full of wisdom (Ezek. 28:12).
 2. Satan was perfect in beauty (Ezek. 28:12).
 3. Satan was in Eden, the garden of God (Ezek. 28:13). This was probably not the Eden of Genesis 1-2, but most likely refers in earthly terms to God’s equivalent paradise in heaven.
 4. Satan was covered with precious stones (Ezek. 28:13; compare Ex. 28:15ff.).
 5. Satan had music within himself (Ezek. 28:13).

6. Satan was the anointed cherub which perhaps distinguished him from others (Ezek. 28:14).
7. Satan had a covering ministry in relation to the throne (Ezek. 28:14; compare Ex. 37:9). Being so near to the worship of God continually, he most likely began to desire for himself that which only rightly belongs to God.
8. Satan was upon the holy mountain of God (Ezek. 28:14), most likely the place of the visible manifestation of the glory of God (Ps. 48:1; Is. 2:3).
9. Satan walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire (Ezek. 28:14).
10. Satan was perfect in all his ways until... (Ezek. 28:12, 15).
11. Satan was very high in his authority, even over archangels (Jude 8-9).

Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" Jude 8-9

12. Satan had a very large kingdom (Eph. 2:2; 6:12).

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

13. Satan was a free moral agent, capable of choosing good or evil.

IV. How did Satan fall from this original state?

- A. Satan desired to claim for himself (worship) that which he was to direct to God alone (Is. 14:12-13; See notes on the Doctrine of Sin).
 1. His heart was lifted up within himself because of his beauty (Ezek. 28:17).
 2. Iniquity was found within him (Ezek. 28:15, 17).

- B. Satan led a conspiracy by soliciting other angels to follow after his cause (Ezek. 28:16, 18; Mt. 25:41; Rev. 12:4, 9).

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth... ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:4, 9

V. What were the results of Satan's sin?

- A. Satan was cast forth from the heaven of heavens (Is. 14:12; Ezek. 28:16-17).
- B. Satan lost his state of perfection and became the author of sin (Ezek. 28:17; I John 3:8; John 8:44).

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
I John 3:8

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44

- C. Satan perverted his power and abilities in use against God (Ezek. 28:12, 16-17).
- D. Satan became the enemy of God's purposes (Eph. 6:11-12; I Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:9-11).

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:11-12

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. I Peter 5:8

- E. Satan forfeited his precious kingdom, but gained another one for himself.
1. He became the ruler of the fallen angels (Mt. 12:24-28; 25:41; Rev. 12:9).

“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9

2. He became the ruler of the world system (John 12:31; 16:11).

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 12:31

3. He became the god of this age (II Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4).

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

II Corinthians 4:3-4

VI. What is the present work and activity of Satan?

[The following is taken from *Angels* by C. Fred Dickenson]

A. Satan opposes God.

1. He opposes God's person (I John 3:7-15).
2. He opposes all of God's plans and purposes.
 - He puts forth a lie (Eph. 2:2; II Th. 2:8-12).

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

- He inspires counterfeit religions and ministries (II Cor. 11:13-15).

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. II Corinthians 11:13-15
- He promotes false doctrine (I Tim. 4:1-3).

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

I Timothy 4:1

3. He counteracts God's sovereign rule (Mt. 4:1-11; John 13:26-30).

And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.

John 13:26-28

B. Satan works in relation to the nations.

1. He deceives nations (Rev. 20:3).

He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more...

Revelation 20:2-3

2. He influences the governments of nations (Mt. 4:8-10; Dan. 10:13-20).

C. Satan works in relation to the unsaved.

1. He tries to prevent them from accepting the truth (Luke 8:12; II Cor. 4:3-4).

"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. Luke 8:11-12

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

II Corinthians 4:3-4

2. He promotes an attraction to false religions and false lifestyles (I Tim. 4:1-3; Eph. 2:1-3; I John 2:15-17).

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

D. Satan works in relation to believers.

1. He wages war against them (Eph. 6:10-18).

2. He accuses and slanders them before God (Rev. 12:10; Zech. 3:1-2).
3. He plants doubts in their minds (Gen. 3:1-5).
4. He tempts them to sin (Acts 5:3; I Cor. 7:5).

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?” Acts 5:3

5. He incites persecution against them (Rev. 2:10; 12:13).

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
Revelation 2:10

6. He tries to hinder their service to the Lord (I Th. 2:18).

Therefore we wanted to come to you—even I, Paul, time and again—but Satan hindered us. I Thessalonians 2:18

7. He tries to infiltrate the church through false teachers (II Cor. 11:13-15; II Pet. 2:1-19) and false disciples (Mt. 13:38-39).

The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Matthew 13:38-39

8. He promotes division and a lack of forgiveness (II Cor. 2:10-11).
9. He tries to afflict us physically (Luke 13:16).

“Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” Luke 13:15-16

VII. Does the believer need to fear Satan?

YES AND NO!

- A. The believer needs to recognize that Satan is a powerful enemy and not to be taken lightly.
 1. We should be sober and watchful (I Pet. 5:8).

2. We should not be ignorant of his devices lest he should take advantage of us (II Cor. 2:11).

3. We should give him no place, opportunity or foothold in our lives (Eph. 4:27).

“Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27

4. We should resist him (Jam. 4:7; I Pet. 5:9; I John 2:13).

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4:7-8

B. The believer needs to realize that in Christ we have been given the victory over every work of the enemy (Col. 2:14-16).

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:14-16

(Note: Correspond the following points with those given under VI, D above)

1. He has given us divine armor and weapons with which to fight and overcome Satan (Eph. 6:11-18; II Cor. 10:3-5).

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶ and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. II Corinthians 10:3-5

2. He Himself intercedes on our behalf (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; I John 2:1-2).

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:25

3. He has given us confidence and faith (II Tim. 1:12; Phil. 1:6).

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. II Timothy 1:12

4. He has given us power to cast down evil imaginations (II Cor.10:3-5).
5. He uses the persecution of Satan to increase the church (Acts 8:1-4).

As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Acts 8:1-4

6. He sends us a Comforter to stand along side of us (John 14:16-18).

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.
John 14:16-18

7. He has given us divine tests by which to judge error (Mt. 7:16; I John 4:1-3).

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. I John 4:1-3

8. He has given us all the elements to achieve perfect unity (Eph. 4:1-16).
9. He has taken our sickness upon Himself (Mt. 8:16-17).

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.” Matthew 8:16-17

10. He has given us the legal right to use His name (Mark 16:17-18; Acts 16:18).

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” Mark 16:17-18

VIII. What are demons and how did they originate?

Apparently Satan has many evil spirit-beings that make up his kingdom.

A. Evil beings that make up Satan's domain are given various titles.

(Note: Many of these titles could be applied to the same being, perhaps the distinction being different ranks, similar to the angels of God.)

- Devils (Mt. 10:8; 12:27-28; Mark 6:13; I Cor. 10:20-21; Jam. 2:19).
- Demons (Mt. 8:30; Mark 5:12; Luke 8:29; Rev. 16:14; 18:2).
- Unclean spirits (Mt. 12:43; Luke 4:33; 9:42; Acts 8:7).
- Seducing spirits (I Tim. 4:1).
- Principalities and Powers (Rom. 8:38; Eph. 6:12; Col. 1:16).
- Rulers of Darkness (Eph. 6:12).

B. While the Bible is not absolutely clear on the origin of evil spirits most believe that they are fallen angels of various orders who sided in Satan's ancient rebellion against God (Rev. 12:7-9).

IX. What is the main work of demons?

A. Just as angels are the servants of God to minister to the heirs of salvation, fallen angels are the servants of Satan who follow his bidding (See John 10:10).

B. Since Satan is not omnipresent, he relies on his angels to do his dirty work for him. Therefore, all of the things that Satan does, his angels or unclean spirits do also.

X. Can a believer be demon possessed?

A. Demons do seek to possess people (Mt. 8:16, 28-34).

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. Matthew 8:16

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. ²⁹And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" ³⁰Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. ³¹So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." ³²And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Matthew 8:28-32

The Greek word most often used for this is *daimonizomzai* which literally means “to be under the power and control of a demon or to be possessed of a demon” (Acts 8:7; 16:16).

- B. Those who are truly born again cannot be demon possessed in the strict sense. A born again believer is possessed by the Holy Spirit who does not share His habitation with a demonic being (II Cor. 6:14-16).

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” II Corinthians 6:14-16

- C. Both believer and non believer can be vexed, tormented and oppressed by demonic spirits (Acts 5:16; 10:38).

*Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were **tormented** by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.*
Acts 5:16

*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were **oppressed** by the devil, for God was with Him.*
Acts 10:38

- D. Believers who choose not to resist the devil and who yield themselves to his temptations can return to a form of slavery to the devil where they are controlled by the will of the devil (Rom. 6:15-23; II Tim. 2:26).

*And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, **having been taken captive by him to do his will.***
II Timothy 2:24-26

XI. What judgment is awaiting Satan and his angels?

- A. Satan was bruised judicially at the cross (Gen. 3:15; Col. 2:14-16).
- B. Satan is still walking about deceiving (I Pet. 5:8).

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. I Peter 5:8

- C. Satan will be further bruised under the feet of the Church (Rom. 16:20; Eph. 1:21-23; I Cor. 15:25-26).

And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. Romans 16:20

...the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.²² And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:18-23

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. I Corinthians 15:25-26

- D. Satan will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire with all his angels and demonic hosts (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10-15).

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10

- E. It should be noted that Satan has experienced seven steps in his downward move from a place of honor to dishonor.

1. Satan enjoyed the heaven of heavens as the covering cherub.
2. Satan was cast out of the third heaven down to the earth (Is. 14:15; Ezek. 28:16).
3. Satan was cursed in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:14-15).
4. Satan was crushed at Calvary (John 12:31; 16:11; Heb. 2:14; I John 3:8).
5. Satan was permanently cast out of the heavens (Luke 10:18).
6. Satan will be sent from earth to the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:2-3).
7. Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire with all of his angels for eternity (Mt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

- F. Satan's seven steps down correspond in contrast to Jesus steps of humiliation and exaltation (Phil. 2:6-8).

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11

New Living Translation

Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.⁶ Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.⁷ He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.⁸ And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.⁹ Because of this, God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. He was equal with God.
2. He made Himself of no reputation.
3. He took on the form of a servant.
4. He was made in the likeness of man.
5. He was found in the fashion (habit) as a man.
6. He became obedient to death.
7. He even was willing to experience the death of the cross.

Lesson 19-21 The Doctrine of Man

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.’” Genesis 1:26-28

I. How was man created from the hand of God?

A. Man was created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26).

1. This image involves man as a three-fold being (I Th. 5:23).

a. Man has a spirit (Zech. 12:1; Job 32:8; I Cor. 2:11). This is the God conscience part of man.

Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him... Zechariah 12:1b

b. Man has a soul (Ezek. 18:4; Ps. 16:10; 19:7). This is the self-conscience part of man and includes the mind, the will and the emotions.

“Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die. Ezekiel 18:4

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple... Psalm 19:7

c. Man has a body (Rom. 12:1; Phil. 3:21). This is the world-conscious part of man that relates through the five senses.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Philippians 3:20-21

2. This image involves man as an intelligent being (Col. 3:10). As an intelligent

being he can think, learn and plan.

...and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...

3. This image involves man as a moral being (Eph. 4:23-24). As a moral being he has a conscience and intuition that bear witness to right and wrong.

...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 4:23-24

- B. Man was created as a dependent being (Acts 17:24-28).

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. ²⁶And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for in Him we live and move and have our being... Acts 17:24-28a

- C. Man was created to be inhabited (John 14:17; I Cor. 3:16-17).

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? I Corinthians 3:16

- D. Man was created for love (I John 4:16-19).

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. ¹⁹We love Him because He first loved us.

- E. Man was created as a free-will being (Gen. 3:6).

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

- F. Man was created as a perfect and sinless being. This does not mean that man was not capable of sin, but that he was innocent and untested yet without sin. The Bible speaks of three kinds of perfection.

1. Innocence or Untested Perfection

This is a perfect state of creation that is capable of sin, but it is as yet untested. Lucifer had this kind of perfection when he was created (Ezek. 28:15). He failed the test just as Adam did (Gen. 3:6-7; Eccl. 7:29).

I discovered that God created people to be upright, but they have each turned to follow their own downward path.” Ecclesiastes 7:29 –NLT

2. Relative Perfection

This is a perfection of the heart or attitude when compared to the surrounding climate and cultural context of the time. It is reflective of a life that is dedicated and obedient to God. Noah, Job and Asa are all said to have this type of perfection (Gen. 6:9; Job 1:1; I Kgs. 15:14).

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. Genesis 6:9

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil... ⁸Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” Job 1:1, 8

3. Sinless Perfection

This is a state of tested perfection from which it is impossible to fall. God Himself has a perfection that reflects an impossibility to sin (Mt. 5:48; Tit. 1:2). The angels that remained faithful to God passed their test and will never again fall. Jesus passed the test being tested in all points yet without sin (Heb. 4:15).

Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.
Matthew 5:48

... in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began... Titus 1:2

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

II. Why did God create man?

A. God created man because God is love (John 3:16; I John 4:16).

1. Because God is love, He had no desire to dwell alone.
 2. Because God is love, He demanded an object upon which to bestow that love.
 3. Because God is love, He desired relationship with other intelligent beings.
- B. God has the true heart of a father (See Genesis 1:26-28).
1. As a true father He desired a man in His image.
 2. As a true father He desired many offspring.
 3. As a true father He desired to have relationship with His offspring.
 4. As a true father He desired His offspring to come to full maturity.
 5. As a true father He desired His offspring to come into full partnership with Him.
 6. As a true father He desired to have a bride for His only begotten Son.
- C. Man was to be the object of God's love and the fulfillment of His father's heart. He was not created as a puppet, a machine or a robot, none of which have free will and, therefore, cannot reciprocate the Creator's love. He was created to be responsive, affectionate and intimate with the Creator.

III. How did man fall from this original state?

- A. Satan undermined the Word of God (Gen. 3:1-7).
1. Satan placed a question mark on God's Word trying to get Eve to doubt when he said to her, "Has God said?" (Gen. 3:1; II Cor. 11:2-3).

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. II Corinthians 11:2-3
 2. Satan contradicted the Word of God forcing Eve to make a choice when he said, "You will not surely die" (Gen. 3:4).
 3. Satan cast doubt on God's intention and character in His dealings with man (Gen. 3:5). He implied that God was selfish and was withholding something that was good for man.

4. Satan deceived them by only telling them what they would gain, not what they would lose (the cost) in the process (Gen. 3:5).
- B. Man was tempted in three areas of his being (I John 2:16).

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

I John 2:15-17

1. Man was tempted in the area of the body—the lust of the flesh. He saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food. Compare Jesus' temptation to turn stones into bread (Luke 4:3).

And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

2. He was tempted in the area of the soul—the lust of the eyes. The eyes are the window of the soul (Gen. 3:6). Compare Jesus' temptation to receive all that He could see if he would bow to Satan (Luke 4:5).

Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

Luke 4:5-7

3. He was tempted in the area of the spirit—the pride of life. He wanted to be wise and to be like God. Compare Jesus' temptation to cast Himself down to be acknowledged as God by those who witnessed it (Luke 4:9).

Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

Luke 4:9-11

- C. Man knowingly transgressed the law of God (I Tim. 2:13-14; I John 3:4).

For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. I Timothy 2:13-14

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. I John 3:4

IV. What were the effects of the fall?

- A. The conscience of man was activated (Gen. 3:7).

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

- B. Man recognized the need for covering (Gen. 3:7).

- C. Man was cut off from direct fellowship with God (Gen. 3:8, 24).

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

- D. Man became fearful of God's presence (Gen. 3:8).

- E. Man became a "self-justifier" and a "blame shifter" (Gen. 3:11-14).

Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹²Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." ¹³And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

- F. Death passed upon all men (Rom. 5:12, 19).

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned... ¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

- G. Man's spirit and mind were darkened (Pro. 20:27; Eph. 4:17-18).

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart. Proverbs 20:27

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, ¹⁸having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; ¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Ephesians 4:17-19

H. Man's physical body became susceptible to sickness, disease and death.

V. What is the condition of every man that is born into the world?

As a result of the original sin of Adam and Eve, sin entered the human race. Like begets like; everything brings forth after its kind (Gen. 1:11). Hence sin passed on to the entire human race of mankind and now every human being since Adam is born with a sin nature.

A. Man is born in sin and, hence, is a sinner (Ps. 14:1-3; 51:5; Is. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-12; I John 1:8, 10).

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God. They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, there is none who does good."² The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.³ They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one. Psalm 14:1-3

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.
Psalm 51:5

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
I John 1:8

B. Man has absolutely no inclination toward God (Rom. 3:22-23; 7:17-20; John 3:19; Jer. 17:9).

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... Romans 3:23

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. John 3:19

*"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"
Jeremiah 17:9*

The law is good, then. The trouble is not with the law but with me, because I am sold into slavery, with sin as my master.¹⁵ I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate.¹⁶ I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good.¹⁷ But I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things.

¹⁸ *I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't.* ¹⁹ *When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway.* ²⁰ *But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it; the sin within me is doing it.*

²¹ *It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.* ²² *I love God's law with all my heart.* ²³ *But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.* ²⁴ *Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin?* ²⁵ *Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.* Romans 7:15-25, NLT

- C. Man has absolutely no understanding of the things of God (I Cor. 2:14).

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Corinthians 2:14

- D. Man's mind is defiled by sin and separation from God (Tit. 1:15; Col. 1:21; Rom. 8:7-8).

To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. Titus 1:15

And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death... Colossians 1:21-22a

- E. Man is a slave to sin (Rom. 6:17; 7:5, 8, 14-15, 19, 23-24).

But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. Romans 6:17

For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. Romans 7:5-6

- F. Man is a child of wrath (Eph. 2:1-3).

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh

and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

Ephesians 2:1-3

G. Man is an enemy of God (Rom. 8:7-8).

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:7-8

H. Man is dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1, See above).

I. Man is on the road to eternal damnation (II Th. 1:8-9; John 15:6; Pro. 14:12).

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

II Thessalonians 1:7b-10

If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. John 15:6

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Proverbs 14:12

VI. What happens to man in redemption?

Note: The following points are taken from unpublished notes by Kevin Conner.

A. There is an impartation of life to the human spirit (Ps. 18:28; John 1:4-13; 8:12; Eph. 5:8; I Th. 5:4-5; I Pet. 2:9).

For You will light my lamp; the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

Psalms 18:28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. ⁹That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³who were born,

not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:6-13

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8:12

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. Ephesians 5:8

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. I Peter 2:9-10

- B. There is a regeneration of our old spirit which was in darkness (John 3:1-8; Ezek. 36:25-28; Tit. 3:5; I Pet. 1:23; Col. 3:10).

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:3-8

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. ²⁸Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 36:25-28

But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever. I Peter 1:22-23

Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. Colossians 3:9-11

- C. When we receive Christ as Savior and Lord, He put His Spirit within our spirit and our spirit becomes one with the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:17; John 1:12; Rom. 8:9).
- D. We receive the evidence that this has taken place by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit with our spirit (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:15-16; I John 5:10).

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:6-7

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:15-17

He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself... I John 5:10a

VII. What happens after the new birth?

Note: The following points are taken from unpublished notes by Kevin Conner.

- A. Our heart still has a bent toward evil, so the Holy Spirit works continually, cleansing and renewing (II Cor. 7:1).

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. II Corinthians 7:1

- B. The spirit of man is restored to a place of control over man.

It should be noted that, although the spirit has dominion, there are many Christians who choose to obey the soul and the flesh. Hence we find three kinds of individuals.

1. The Natural Man

The natural man is the unregenerate man outside of Christ (I Cor. 2:14).

2. The Carnal Believer

The carnal believer is the regenerate man who chooses to follow the animal instincts and the lusts of the flesh (I Cor. 3:1-3).

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? I Corinthians 3:1-3

3. The Spiritual Man

The spiritual man is the regenerate man who is ruled by, walking in and living according to the promptings of the Holy Spirit through the human spirit (Rom. 8:1-17).

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Romans 8:1-9

C. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, that Spirit which is in us begins to work in relation to the rest of this three part being.

1. He breaks through the will of man.
2. He renews the conscience and mind of man.
3. His influence will one day sanctify the whole body (I Th. 5:23).

D. Man will ultimately be restored to the image of God (Rom. 8:29; II Cor. 3:18).

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:29

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. II Corinthians 3:18

VIII. What is the ultimate destiny of man?

- A. Since man is created from the hand of God as a “spirit being”, once man is created he (the spirit part of man) will never cease to exist.
- B. All human beings will spend eternity in heaven with their maker or in hell with the devil and his angels (John 5:28-29; Rom. 2:5-9; II Th. 1:8-9; Mt. 13:41-43; 25:34-46).

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’...⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” Matthew 25:34, 41

Lesson 22-24 The Doctrine of Sin

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.” Romans 5:12, 14

I. What do we mean by the term “sin”?

Most people do not like to use the term “sin” when talking about certain behavior. They like to use other words that tend to minimize the failure aspect of their lives. They talk about sin issues as sickness. Unfortunately, our ultimate salvation from sin is dependent upon our proper acknowledgement of sin followed by genuine repentance.

A. First, it is important to understand what sin is not.

1. Sin is not an accident. Sin entered the world through a willful act of disobedience (Rom. 5:19).

For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

2. Sin is not weakness of the flesh. Christ Himself shared our weaknesses but He did not sin (Heb. 4:15). He was tired, hungry and vulnerable to grief.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4:15

3. Sin is not a necessity for the believer (Rom. 6:1-23).

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:12-14

4. Sin is not excusable (Ezek. 18:4-20).

The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. Ezekiel 18:20

Adam and Eve tried to offer an excuse for sin or blame someone else, but God

held all accountable for their own actions.

- a. Man would like to find someone to blame (i.e. parents, teachers, society, etc.).
- b. Man would like to call it “indiscretion” (error in judgment).
- c. Scholars would like to label it “ignorance.”
- d. Others would like to call it “moral weakness.”
- e. No matter what you call it, everyone will have to stand before God and give an account.

B. Second, it is important to see what the various words for sin mean in the Bible. The following are the English equivalents of the original Greek and Hebrew words.

1. To miss the mark (Judg. 20:16).

This is the most common meaning in both the Old and New Testaments (Gen. 4:7; Ex. 9:27; Lev. 5:1; Num. 6:11; Ps. 51:2, 4; Pro. 8:36; Is. 42:24; Hos. 4:7; Rom. 3:23; 5:12). It is most commonly translated “sin.”

But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death.” Proverbs 8:36

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... Romans 3:23

2. To be bent, twisted or crooked (Ex. 20:5; Lev. 5:1; Ps. 32:5; Is. 5:18; 53:5-6).

It is usually translated “iniquity.” God made us to function as a “straight stick,” but we have perverted our way and become “twisted” from our God-ordained function.

I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Psalm 35:5

3. To have the habit of evil (Job 16:11; 20:29; 34:8; Ps. 82:2; Pro. 16:12; Is. 57:20-21; Mal. 2:6). It is usually translated “wicked” or “wickedness.”

But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

Isaiah 57:20-21

4. To rebel against authority (Ps. 51:3; Pro. 28:2; Is. 1:2; II Th. 2:4,8). It is usually translated “lawlessness.”

For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—that You may be

found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Psalm 51:3-4

5. To cross over or go beyond a line (Ps. 17:3; Hos. 6:7; 8:1; Mt. 15:2-3; Rom. 4:15). It is usually translated “transgression.”

“Set the trumpet to your mouth! He shall come like an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed My covenant and rebelled against My law. Hosea 8:1

6. To wander from the path (Num. 15:22; I Sam. 26:21; Ps. 119:118; Pro. 28:10; Is. 28:7; Ezek. 34:6). It is usually translated “err” or “go astray.”

Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he himself will fall into his own pit; but the blameless will inherit good. Proverbs 28:10

7. To fall when one should have stood (Mt. 6:14; Rom. 5:15-20; 11:11-12; Gal. 6:1; Eph. 1:7; Col. 2:13; Jam. 5:16). It is often translated “offense” or “fault.”

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Galatians 6:1

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16

8. To neglect to hear or to disobey (Mt. 18:17; Rom. 5:19; II Cor.10:6; Heb. 2:2-3). It is most often translated “disobedience.”

For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

9. To be ignorant of what should have been known (Heb. 9:7).

But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people’s sins committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:7

C. Third, it is important to see the various ways that the Bible defines sin.

1. Proverbs 21:4 - *“A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.”*

Ultimately nothing that fallen man does is pleasing to the Lord. Our sacrifices must come out of right relationship and humility before the Lord.

2. Proverbs 24:9 - *“The devising of foolishness is sin.”*

We can sin in thought as well as action. We are defiled by our thought-life (Mt. 15:18-19; Pro. 23:7).

3. I John 3:4 - *“Sin is lawlessness.”*

Behind all sins is the sin of idolatry, which reveals man’s ambition to put himself in the place of God and so to be his own Lord.

4. I John 5:17 - *“All unrighteousness is sin.”*

Unrighteousness involves violation of God’s moral law and ethical standards (Rom. 1:18, 24-32; Jam. 2:10).

5. James 4:17 - *“To him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”*

Knowing to do good and not doing it is sin. We are responsible for what we know (Mt. 25:37-45; 23:3-4, 23; Luke 12:47-48).

6. Romans 14:23 - *“Whatever is not from faith is sin.”*

Faith is submission to God’s government, a yielding to His authority and a compliance with His revealed will.

- D. Fourth, it is important to have a clear statement in regard to sin based on the biblical definitions. Martin Luther provides such a definition in his large catechism.

“Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of any law of God given as a rule to the reasonable creature.”

II. Where did sin originate?

- A. Sin entered the universe through Satan (Ezek. 28:11-19; Is. 14:12-17; I John 3:8; John 8:44).

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. Ezekiel 28:15

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. I John 3:8a

1. There was no sin prior to the transgression of Satan.
2. Satan’s sin was the sin of choosing his own will over God’s will--the sin of self-will (Is. 14:13-14).

For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Isaiah 14:13-14

Notice the five “I wills” in the Isaiah passage which correspond to the following:

- Self-ascendancy
- Self-exaltation
- Self-enthronement
- Self-centeredness
- Self-sufficiency

3. Satan’s sin was the worst sin ever in that he sinned without a tempter.
4. God had nothing to do with the entrance of sin (Jam. 1:13). God can do nothing that would violate His moral attributes (Tit. 1:2).

Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. James 1:13

- B. Sin entered the human race through Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 5:19; I Tim. 2:14).

For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

III. What is the extent of sin?

SIN HAS AFFECTED THE ENTIRE CREATED UNIVERSE!

- A. It has affected the heavenly places (Heb. 9:23; Eph. 6:11-12).

Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. Hebrews 9:23

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Ephesians 6:12

- B. It has affected the natural earth (Gen. 3:17-18; Rom. 8:22). The earth was cursed as a result of man’s sin.

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Romans 8:22

- C. It has affected the animal kingdom (Gen. 9:2; Is. 11:6-9). Man and animals were in harmony prior to the fall. It was only after the flood that things changed.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

- D. It has affected the entire race of mankind.

1. This fact is declared by the Scriptures (Ps. 14:1-3; Rom. 3:23; Gal.3:22).

But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Galatians 3:22

But the Scriptures have declared that we are all prisoners of sin, so the only way to receive God's promise is to believe in Jesus Christ. –NLT

2. This fact is attested to by the people of the Lord (Job 40:4; Is. 6:5; Luke 5:8).

“Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” Isaiah 6:5

3. This fact is testified to by the unsaved. Every man has a witness in his conscience of his own sinful condition (Rom. 2:14-15). They may do different things to deal with the inner feeling, but all sense that it is true.

...for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them). Romans 2:14-15

- Seneca declared, “We have all sinned, some more and some less.”
- Ovid wrote, “We all strive for what is forbidden.”
- Goethe confessed, “I see no fault in others which I myself might not have committed.
- A Chinese proverb reads, “There are two good men: one is dead and the other is not yet born.

4. The natural earth itself testifies that something is out of order in the universe (Rom. 8:22).

*“It might seem natural to suppose that every time a man sins that he would know a little more about sin, its nature, and its methods. Actually the exact opposite is true. Every time he sins, he is making himself less and less capable of realizing what sin is, less likely to recognize that he is a sinner. The ugly thing (and this, I feel sure, has never been sufficiently grasped), the really diabolical thing about sin is that it perverts a man’s judgment. It stops him from seeing straight.”--
James S. Stewart*

IV. What is the penalty for sin? Is it too severe?

- A. The ultimate penalty for all sin is eternal death (Gen. 2:17; Ezek. 18:4; Mt. 25:46; Rom. 6:23; 5:12).

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

- B. The worst aspect of the penalty is banishment from the presence of the Lord (II Th. 1:7-9; Gen. 3:24; 4:16).

These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power... II Thessalonians 1:9

- C. This penalty is just because:
 1. Man’s sin, no matter how great or small, reflects disloyalty and disobedience.
 2. Sin reflects man’s rebellion against God’s authority over him.
 3. Man sinned in full knowledge of the penalty to be incurred.
 4. In man’s sin, the condition of his heart is revealed--ambitious, ungrateful, rebellious and unbelieving.

V. What is the root of sin?

- A. Self-will (Is. 14:12-14)
- B. Pride (Pro. 16:18)

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

C. Covetousness (Rom. 7:7; I Tim. 6:10)

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

I Timothy 6:10

D. Unbelief (Rom. 11:20; Heb. 3:12, 19; 4:6, 11). The one sin everyone in hell will have in common is “unbelief.”

VI. What is the process of temptation and sin?

A. Temptation is the act of enticement to do wrong by the promise of short term pleasure or gain.

B. Discovering the origin of temptation will determine the action taken to overcome temptation.

1. We can be tempted or drawn away by our own lusts (Jam. 1:14), in which case we are to exercise self control (Gal. 5:22-23).

But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. James 1:14-15

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-25

2. Satan is also referred to as a tempter who entices us to sin (Mt. 4:3; I Th. 3:5), in which case we are to resist the devil, put on the armor of God, and stand strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:14-18; Jam. 4:7; I Pet. 5:9).
3. While God might allow a trial or test, He never tempts anyone to sin (Jam. 1:12-13). The devil and his henchmen are the ones who do the tempting.

C. Understanding the normal process of temptation will help us to be more aware of Satan's devices and, hence, better able to resist (II Cor. 2:11; Jam. 1:14-15).

James describes a seven step process:

1. Tempted.

This refers to a seed planted by the father of lies (John 8:44).

2. Drawn Away by Own Lusts.

The seed cannot conceive unless there is an egg with which to unite (Mt. 5:27-28).

3. Enticed.

This refers to the attraction of the two previous steps. To be enticed is “to be drawn on by exciting hope and desire.”

4. Conception.

This is the joining of the seed and the egg to begin the germinating process (Job 15:35; Acts 5:4).

They conceive trouble and bring forth futility; their womb prepares deceit.”

Job 15:35

They conceive trouble and evil, and their hearts give birth only to deceit.”

–NLT

While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” Acts 5:4

5. Formation.

This is the time before the eventual bringing forth when one is dwelling on it, mulling it over in the mind and fantasizing about it. Its essence is a time of feeding the conceived idea so that it grows stronger.

6. Birth/Bringing Forth.

This is the outward manifestation of that which to this point has only been inward (Ps. 7:14).

Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. Psalm 7:14

7. Death.

This is the final outcome of all temptation (Pro. 16:25). All sin leads to tragic consequences.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

- D. Overcoming temptation is a personal responsibility for every believer (Rom. 6:12-14).

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.¹³ And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:12-14

1. Build a strong spiritual life through prayer and involvement with other mature believers (Eph. 6:10-18; I Cor. 15:33).

Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." I Corinthians 15:33

2. Avoid harmful influences including questionable entertainment, television and other amusements that will arouse improper desires (I John 2:15-17).

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

3. Know the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit and stand on its declarations (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12).
4. Flee from temptation (II Tim. 2:22). Never take for granted your ability to resist. Pride always comes before a fall (Pro. 16:18; I Cor. 10:12-13).

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. II Timothy 2:22

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

I Corinthians 10:12-13

5. Resist the devil and submit to God (Jam. 4:7). The more one resists temptation the stronger one becomes, the more one yields to temptation the weaker one becomes in relation to it (Rom. 6:11-14).

VII. What is the remedy for sin?

- A. The only remedy for sin is the application of the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ that was accomplished at Calvary (See the Doctrine of Jesus Christ).
- B. The only remedy for sin in man is to exercise faith (the opposite of unbelief) in the redemptive work of Christ (Heb. 11:6).

- 1. I must conform my will to His will (Mt. 16:24-25; Rom. 12:1-2).

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25

- 2. I must humble myself and acknowledge His lordship, submitting to God-ordained authority in my life (Luke 14:11; Mt. 18:4; I Pet. 5:5-6).

... and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. I Peter 5:5-8

- 3. I must seek first the Kingdom of God (Mt. 6:33).
- 4. I must be born again (John 3:3-5).