

EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



INTRODUCTORY NOTES

DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

BY

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[BOOK 1 OF 13]

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WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Professor Simon Greenleaf was one of the most eminent lawyers of all time. His "Laws of Evidence" for many years were accepted by all States in the United States as the standard methodology for evaluating cases. He was teaching law at a university in the United States when one of his students asked Professor Greenleaf if he would apply his "Laws of Evidence" to evaluate an historical figure. When Greenleaf agreed to the project he asked the student who was to be the subject of the review. The student replied that the person to be examined would be Jesus Christ. Professor Greenleaf agreed to undertake the examination of Jesus Christ and as a result, when he had finished the review, Simon Greenleaf personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Professor Greenleaf then sent an open letter to all jurists in the United States saying in part "I personally have investigated one called Jesus Christ. I have found the evidence concerning him to be historically accurate. I have also discovered that Jesus Christ is more than a human being, he is either God or nothing and having examined the evidence it is impossible to conclude other than he is God. Having concluded that he is God I have accepted him as my personal Saviour. I urge all members of the legal profession to use the "Laws of Evidence" to investigate the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and if you find that he is wrong expose him as a faker but if not consider him as your Saviour and Lord"

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

Salvation is available for all members of the human race.

Salvation is the most important undertaking in all of God's universe. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God's merely passing over or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis consistent with the divine holiness of His character. This is called grace. It relies on God so man cannot work for salvation, neither can he deserve it. We need to realise that the creation of this vast unmeasured universe was far less an undertaking than the working out of God's plan to save sinners.

However the acceptance of God's salvation by the sinner is the most simple thing in all of life. One need not be rich, nor wise, nor educated. Age is no barrier nor the colour of one's skin. The reception of the enormous benefits of God's redemption is based upon the simplest of terms so that there is no one in all this wide universe who need be turned away.

How do I become a Christian?

There is but one simple step divided into three parts. First of all I have to recognise that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 5:24).

Secondly, realising that if I want a relationship with Almighty God who is perfect, and recognising that I am not perfect, I need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16).

Thirdly, by the exercise of my own free will I personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, believing that He died personally for me and that He is what He claims to be in an individual, personal and living way (John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 16:31; 4:12).

The results of Salvation

The results of this are unbelievably wonderful:

My sins are taken away (John 1:29),

I possess eternal life now (1 John 5:11,12),

I become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17),

The Holy Spirit takes up His residence in my life (1 Corinthians 6:19),

And I will never perish (John 10:28-30).

This truthfully is life's greatest transaction. This is the goal of all people; this is the ultimate of our existence. We invite and exhort any reader who has not become a Christian by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to follow these simple instructions and be born again eternally into God's family (Matthew 11:28; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

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COURSE INTRODUCTION BOOK

INTRODUCTION

In the original course taught in Auckland in 1987, the first eleven lectures (now available in MP3) formed a pre diploma study to confirm that the Lord was truly calling the applicant to undertake the full course. That is the way to use these studies and prayerfully seek the Lord's guidance. These studies can also be used without any assignments for immediate training of new converts after their salvation. We would also suggest you have them go through a complete Gospel study also so they know the words and acts of Jesus fully and thoroughly and hear His Voice as they advance in the first days after their salvation. All young believers should be encouraged to read five chapters of a Gospel every day.

At the end of the eleven studies below there are five questions that the applicant has to answer as part of the formal application to join the full Certificate of Theology course. [See final page] The Certificate of Theology is the first course in the process that leads to the Diploma of Theology, and in some places can then advance to the Bachelor of Theology degree. Please see the "Prospectus" File on the CD or website for details. Masters Degree study is available in some locations, but only for pastors who have graduated with the BTH and served at least three years in ministry. Like all courses we have developed, it is a practical ministry orientated course, not an academic only program.

To do the complete Diploma course with its 32 assignments will normally take the student at least two years so it is of the utmost importance that the Lord's place for you to be for the next two to three years is doing the course. If the Certificate of Theology is your main focus it may be completed in six months of enthusiastic Holy Spirit empowered hard work. Refer to the "Seminars" File on the CD or website and use Book 19 (Student Workbook) as your basic text for students, and in the "Diploma" File, as the pastor/mentor, use Books 2 and 3 to teach the Full EBCWA Certificate of Theology Course. The File "Other Books" also has many helpful texts for additional study.

The course was designed to produce resilient Holy Spirit filled and prayer saturated workers who are true Christian leaders for local churches. Resilience has been defined as the relaxed confidence of someone who knows who they are, knows who loves them, and who is guided by a powerful acceptance of truth and rejection of the fake and unreal. It is the truth that sets us free of all that will otherwise enslave us, and the truth of God's Word will always powerfully transform lives as the Holy Spirit is given free reign in the individual life. The Holy Spirit alone can undo the impact of all evil previously done in any life! We are to be "rebuilt" as we study the Word, and allow the Holy Spirit free reign with us.

Our desire is to build resilient and Holy Spirit empowered believers and church fellowships. May the Lord richly bless you as you prayerfully apply these things to your daily life. If you are working in a group doing this course introduction please ensure as a group you read aloud together all the bold typed biblical texts referred to.

LECTURE 1 - INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy 3:16,17 " *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"

The Bible is for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. The instruction is similar to that used for the instruction of a young person by a tutor at school. We are like pupils in school, under the authority of the Word of God.

We learn God's Word in the local church under a God ordained authority structure, which begins with the Holy Spirit teaching each believer and the called Pastor-Teacher instructing. In the local church we don't speak of "our rights", we speak of the responsibility to learn and the right way to learn – under the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The pastor's job is to protect your right to learn and to faithfully teach the whole counsel of the Word of God. Their authority is only valid as they teach accurately from the Scriptures. The purpose of this course is to train servant-ministers of God's Word who will accurately lift up Jesus as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

As you advance in study of the Word of God you will come under a lot of pressure, for the enemy hates this work you are beginning.

Do your job and study faithfully "as unto Him" who died for you. He wants us to be complete and perfectly equipped for the task of spiritual service. "Thoroughly furnished" means to be "fully fitted out for action as a soldier" on the campaign. God wants us to be fully fit and equipped soldiers, ready to do whatever we are asked by the Holy Spirit on the battlefield of this life.

2 Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth".

The Christian life requires commitment. Possibly more than 95% of believers never know what they are supposed to do, nor truly listen to the Lord's Word, which is a tragedy for them in time and eternity. Let us not fall short in what God requires of us – let us be like Joshua, not the Exodus generation who failed God's call on their lives. **Hebrews 3:7 – 4:6.**

Hebrews 3:7ff "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

8. Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9. When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15. While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

16. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

17. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

18. And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

19. So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4:1. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6. *Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief."*

The word "study" is in the aorist, active, imperative in the Greek language, showing that it is a command to throw yourself into the study God's Word at every moment of time that you can deliberately set aside for that purpose. Paul states that we should be totally committed to this action in every age-stage of our life. We are to work so as to be "approved", and this meant in the Greek language that the item so called had been "tested and found satisfactory". We must be genuine and true to what God requires, not fake/hypocritical or corrupt.

In the ancient world the crooked business people would sell "antique" Greek vases to the Roman aristocracy but they were cracked Greek pots just glued together with coloured wax, which when the heat of summer came on would fall into pieces. Over time the Romans realised this fraud and developed a stamp that they marked "tested and approved" genuine vases with, and that is the term Paul uses here. Believers are always to be "certified" as the genuine article – we are not to be fake in our faith.

As we will see in the full course as it unfolds, much of Scripture challenges all who love the Lord to "spot the fakes" and so avoid personal hurt to life and ministry. We are each to be certified by the work of the Holy Spirit in our life and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is our visible certificate of authenticity. **Matthew 7:13-23.**

Pastors have the great responsibility to preach the Word to ensure that all believers can grow up in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus and so be fruitful servants of the Lord Jesus. **2 Peter 3:18.**

2 Timothy 4:2-5 " *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."*

Remember that the pastor's job is to preach the Word as a herald of the King. We must say what the King wants us to say, and we need to know what God's Policies are before we speak. If the herald does not proclaim what the King requires the King may call her/him back for discipline! If you are preaching God's word you will get more discipline than others, but you can also receive more blessing if you serve the Lord well. We are to teach the Word of God with passionate commitment to the truth, and not give little devotional messages. God's people need real food!

We are not here on this earth to entertain, but to challenge with truth. We are responsible to the Lord our King for our teaching and must train believers to serve in the Lord's Army as his soldiers and ambassadors/witnesses. We are called to teach the doctrinal truths of scripture; we do not teach fluffy nonsense! We are to be patient and to keep on teaching and leading God's people until the end of our lives. The Pastoral Epistles, 1 and 2 Timothy, 1 and 2 Peter, and Titus are the manuals for pastoral work. We should therefore know them intimately and obey them enthusiastically. God wants our passionate obedience to His Holy Word. Faith must work out in life and work. **James 2:12-24.**

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

OBEDIENCE

1. Obedience is better than offerings. (**1 Samuel 15:22; Proverbs 21:3; 28:9**). If we are not in God's will, any "worship" we offer is unacceptable.
2. Obedience is something you have to learn. The basic training in obedience has to start in childhood. As it says in (**Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16**) "Honour your father and your mother." (**Proverbs 4:3,4; 22:6; 29:15-17; Hebrews 5:8**).
3. Teaching your child obedience is an act of love. (**Proverbs 3:12; 19:18; 23:13-14**).

4. We have to obey those who are in authority over us. (**Exodus 20:12; 22:28; Leviticus 19:3; Deuteronomy 5:16; Romans 13:1-5; Ephesians 6:1-5; Colossians 3:18-22; Titus 3:1**).
5. Those in authority have been put in that position by God. (**Romans 13:1**).
6. Obedience to those in authority is obedience to God. (**Proverbs 24:21; Ephesians 6:7; Colossians 3:23-24; Romans 13:5**).
7. Disobedience to those in authority is disobedience to God. (**Romans 1:30; 13:2**).
8. But when we are ordered to do something that is against God's Will we have to disobey. (**Acts 4:19; 5:40-42**).
9. The fifth commandment (**Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16**) is the only commandment with a promise. (**Proverbs 10:17; Ephesians 6:1-3**). Social life in a society is only possible when the people in it have learned to obey.
10. If this commandment is ignored, if the authority of the family is denied or not exercised, society will quickly slide into anarchy. (**Isaiah 3:12; Proverbs 29:21; 30:21-23; Romans 1:30**.)
11. Jesus Christ was perfect in His obedience. (**Luke 2:51; Philippians 2:8**). Examples of the Lord's perfect obedience to the Father's will.
 - a) The Lord's temptation in the wilderness (**Matthew 4:1-11**), where the Lord resisted the temptation in His humanity to use His divine power outside the Father's will (**Philippians 2:5-8, Hebrews 10:7**)
 - b) In the Garden of Gethsemane the Lord resisted all temptation to the contrary but set His face firmly to go through with the horror of the cross (**Matthew 26:38-46, Mark 14:34-42, Luke 22:41-44**)
 - c) During the provocations of the trials the Lord stood firm and resolute. Although He had the power to resist arrest, as shown briefly in (**John 18:6**), He voluntarily went with the troops, even chiding Peter for his sword play (**Luke 22:49-51**). Although abused (**Matthew 26:67-68**), struck (**John 18:22**), scourged (**Matthew 27:26**), mocked and beaten (**Matthew 27:27-31**), and finally crucified the Lord calmly accepted this all as part of the Father's Plan, resisting any temptation to rebel at the injustice, cruelty and callousness of those who perpetrated this evil. Rather He prayed for them, acknowledging to Pilate that all this was part of His role as Saviour (**Luke 23:34, John 18:37**)
 - d) When miracles were demanded by Herod Antipas (**Luke 23:8-11**) the Lord resisted any temptation to instantly judge that evil man and his court but saying nothing set His face to the cross on which He would bear even the sins of Herod Antipas (**1 John 2:2**)
 - e) When He stumbled on the road to the cross He did not call on divine strength but Simon of Cyrene had to be pressed into service to carry the cross. (**Matthew 27:32, Luke 23:26**)
 - f) When reviled by the crowds as He hung on the cross, taunted to do things which He could have done, He resisted all temptation to step down from the cross but stayed there to bear the sins of all. (**Matthew 27:39-44, Mark 15:29-32, Luke 23 :35-39**)

Notes

LECTURE 2 GETTING ACTIVE

The people when Noah was preaching were so involved with the details of daily life that they didn't listen to the gospel. **Matthew 26:34-39, 1 Peter 3:18-20**. Most of the people we come into contact with will be of this type; they are simply distracted by the details of life. We are not to be this easily spiritually neutralized by Satan. We are told to "redeem or buy up the time". **Ephesians 5:15**. This means every day is a day to be lived without being distracted by the daily grind of life, or the attitudes of others towards the Word. Our eyes are on the Lord's opinion of us, not the things around us.

Every day is a day that you will not have again, so live it fully to God's glory. Audit your days believer and see how well you are using the time God is giving you. Check what you are doing hour by hour for a week and analyse your time usage and time wastage. Try and find two hours each day for Bible study. Be sure that the legitimate things do not keep you from the best things, but be careful not to just waste time. What does your audit teach you about how careful you are with this precious and very limited resource of time.

Ephesians 5:14-21. *"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."*

In verse 14 Paul is using humour, telling believers to get active, for their life and its opportunities will be over before they know it. See that you walk carefully, and not as foolish unbelievers, who can be distracted by sport, politics, and material goods. Redeem the time brother or sister by Spirit filled living. Please do not stand before the Lord Jesus in the end and confess to just have been wasting your short time here.

In verse 17 we are told to be wise, understanding what the will of God is for us. It is for us to mature and so serve the Lord in spirit and in truth with Holy Spirit power. God's hand is with a prepared believer in a prepared work. We are to speak in spiritual songs. What songs are our daily lives singing to those around us? Do our lives reflect pagan pop music, or do we sing like David or the Apostle Paul?

It should be noted in verse 20 that it is the Father to whom we give thanks in the name of the Son. All prayer should be addressed to the Father. Peter tells us we are of the Royal Family of God, as well as being the Lord Jesus' ambassadors. As ambassadors we should know correct protocol, and pray properly and often. How often do you speak to your heavenly father brother/sister? We ought to be in prayer often. **Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17**.

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

PRAYER

1. In this topic we will look at communication with God. We may know the provision of God but we must communicate with Him in order to obtain this provision.
2. Communication
 - (a) Prayer is the believer's means of communicating with God.
 - (b) The Bible is God's way of communicating with man.
3. Promises Involving Prayer
 - (a) We should ask believing. - **Matthew 21:22**
 - (b) The power of corporate prayer. - **Matthew 18:19**
 - (c) God is always available to hear our prayer. **Psalms 116:1, 2**
 - (d) God will answer while we are yet praying. **Isaiah 65:24**

- (e) We are commanded to pray. **Matthew 7:7**
 - (f) We can ask for anything in His name. **John 14:13-14**
 - (g) The prayer should be with thanksgiving. **Philippians 4:6**
 - (h) We should pray without ceasing. **I Thessalonians 5:17**
 - (i) We can come boldly to the throne of Grace. **Hebrews 4:16**
4. Prayer - Divided into 4 Segments
- (a) Confession of sins. **1 John 1:9**
 - (b) Thanksgiving. **I Thessalonians 5:18**
 - (c) Intercession for others. **Ephesians 6:18**
 - (d) Petitions for one's own needs **Hebrews 4:16**
5. Power of Prayer
- (a) Individual - Elijah and the burnt offering. **I Kings 18:36-39**
 - (b) Corporate - the release of Peter from prison. **Acts 12:1-18**
6. One Prayer that could not be Answered The prayer of our Lord on the Cross. **Psalms 22:1-18**
7. To Whom are Prayers Addressed?
- (a) Directed to the Father
 - (b) In the name of the Son - **Hebrews 7:25**
 - (c) In the power of the Spirit - **Romans 8:26-7**
- The Son (Jesus) and Spirit are interceding for us.
8. Prayers can be Divided into Petition and Desire
- (a) Petition - What you ask God for. (eg. a new car)
 - (b) Desire - The desire behind the petition. (eg. happiness because you have a new car).
9. Four Possible Combinations
- (a) Petition answered –
Desire not answered. (**Psalm 106:15** - The quails of the Exodus generation. (**1 Samuel 8:5**)
- A King to reign over Israel.
 - (b) Petition not answered –
Desire answered. (**Genesis 18:23**) The preservation of Sodom. (**2 Corinthians 12:7**) -
Removal of the thorn in Paul's side.
 - (c) Petition answered –
Desire answered (**I Kings 18:36-37**) -Elijah requests fire for the offering. (**Luke 23:42**) -The
penitent thief's prayer. Type (c) represents the perfect prayer.
 - (d) Petition not answered –
Desire not answered. Type (d) unanswered prayer has 9 main reasons which are shown in
paragraph 10.
10. Reasons for Unanswered Prayer
- (a) Lack of belief. (**Matthew 21:22**)
 - (b) Selfishness (**James 4:3**)
 - (c) Unconfessed sin (**Psalm 66:18**)
 - (d) Lack of compassion (**Proverbs 21:13**)
 - (e) Lack of peace at home. (**Psalm 133:1-3**)
 - (f) Pride and self righteousness (**Job 35:12-13**)
 - (g) Lack of filling of the Spirit (**Ephesians 6:18**)
 - (h) Lack of obedience (**1 John 3:22**)
 - (i) Not in the Divine will (**1 John 5:14**)
- Most of the reasons for unanswered prayer is some form of sin in the life which can be solved by confession of known sins as per paragraph 4 (a) under the concept of **1 John 1:9**
11. Intercessory Prayer
- (a) This is one of the four factors in a prayer which are: -
 - (i) Confession of sins.
 - (ii) Thanksgiving
 - (iii) Intercession

(iv) Own needs.

- (b) The power of intercessory prayer is taught in (1 Kings 18:42-46) the principle being found in (James 5:16-18)
- (e) The power of prevailing prayer is shown in (Acts 12)
- (d) The prayer for the unbeliever (Romans 10:1)
- (e) Prayer for an unknown believer (Colossians 1:3-11)
- (f) Prayer for the known believer (Ephesians 1:15-23)
- (g) The True Lord's Prayer (John 17)

AMBASSADORSHIP – OUR CALLING

1. An Ambassador does not appoint himself, he is appointed by the nation he represents, the king he represents, the person he represents. We are appointed by God. (2 Corinthians 5-20).
2. An Ambassador does not support himself. We are in the plan of God and are sustained and protected by him. (Ephesians 5:18).
3. An Ambassador does not represent himself. We represent God on earth. (Matthew 28:19, 20).
4. An Ambassador does not belong to the nation to which he is sent. Positionally we are in heaven, experientially we are in the Devil's world, and we are here to represent our Lord. (John 15:19).
5. All Ambassadors have instructions in written form. We have the Word of God. (I Corinthians 2:16).
6. An Ambassador representing his country does not treat any insult as personal. (Matthew 5:11, 12).
7. When an Ambassador is recalled from a country it is tantamount to declaration of war. After the Rapture there will be massive warfare on earth. All the Ambassadors will be recalled at the Rapture. (I Thessalonians 4:13-17).

Colossians 4:2-6 *"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man".*

Colossians and Ephesians were written at the same time. In Colossians 4 we are told to continue in prayer and as in Ephesians to redeem the time. Prayer is not an optional extra, it is our life in Christ to be speaking with our heavenly father all the time. Get used to living in union with Christ, for that means your faith is real and active, not dead and formal. Talk to the Father during the day. He is your companion all the time. The Spirit is in you, the Son has fellowship with you and the Father is listening to you. Pray for others, pray for yourself that you may have ministry opportunities. Celebrate your fellowship by prayer often through each day.

In verse 6 we should have our words flavoured with the salt God's Word. Work at living in God's Word. If you are alive God has a purpose for your life. When you have finished your work God will take you home to heaven. The best place to be is on the altar of study and prayer, and then on the altar of spiritual service. You can relax and ask the Lord what he wants you to do today and hear and obey. Let us walk in the filling of the Holy Spirit and so fulfil all the Lord has for us each day.

Notes

LECTURE 3 – THE NATURE OF MAN

We are fallen beings – and the legacy of Adam’s fall is powerfully with us daily. We battle against the temptations that come from our Old Sin Nature and from the World system of Satan. He will have us distracted by things, or enticed by evil desires that will destroy our spiritual life if we give them time and space to grow within us. This life is a battlefield and the emotions can war with the mind many times each day. **Romans 7:14 – 8:2.**

Enticement and lust is a difficult topic and is not often mentioned but it must be, for we all fight daily against desires that will destroy us if we do not destroy them first. Believers get into sexual problems all too often because there is no straight talking on the subject by the pastor from the Word of God. More ministers leave the ministry due to failure in the sexual area than in any other area of life’s temptations and so we should pause and reflect upon this. God’s Word is clear in its teaching on all the various subjects of lust, but we must teach the truth to set people free from the “devices” of the enemy. **2 Corinthians 2:11.** God desires holiness, but the enemy wants anything other than holiness!

1 Peter 1:12-16. *“12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

God wants joy for us in our godly sexual relationship with our own husband or wife, but the enemy desires our destruction through ungodly sexual entanglements with people who are not our right partner for this life. The sexual relationship with the right person, in the right time and right way is important. God has had a set policy on marriage since man was created and if you act in accordance with that you can have great fulfilment. You will know sexual pleasure that the unbeliever cannot know because they have defiled themselves with many who were not their correct partner.

Four areas to be clear on regarding the dangers of lusting after paths other than God’s path (these are Satan’s paths).

- [a] **Sexual lust** becomes a problem because of its direction towards the wrong object. We were made to be sexually fulfilled by the opposite sex. We should respect those whom we date as the possible future partner of someone else. We need to get to know people spiritually and mentally and do not need to know them physically until we are sure they are our true partner. A few have the gift of celibacy but it is rare except in times of great persecution. (An example of this would be the 144,000 witnesses of Revelation 7.) Let us be careful to be guided by the Holy Spirit to the right partner to minister with through our brief life here in time.
- [b] **Power lust** where one desires to have power over others. In the church this is seen where prominent members of a congregation tell the pastor what to preach or how to do things, rather than heeding the call of the Holy Spirit. Power lust, like all other uncontrolled lusts, is always a sign of Old Sin Nature or satanic activity. Let us hear the Holy Spirit, and give Him power over our life choices, not try to control things ourselves. Too many churches run on “their plans” not the Holy Spirit’s leading! As limited men and women we simply do not have the brain power, or all the facts available, to control things our way! **Isaiah 55:7-9.** Let us be controlled by the Holy Spirit and resist the temptation to try to control things that we cannot at all.
- [c] **Approbation lust** is where the person wants recognition and will compromise the truth if necessary to keep popular with a group. This can lead to the Sin Unto Death as it did with Ananias and Sapphira in **Acts 5:1-11.** They wanted to have the approval of people and lied to God and others to get it. It is foolish to seek people’s approval, for the only approval that matters is the Lord’s “well done”. Let us seek that in eternity, for the Lord’s opinion alone matters. **Matthew 25:21-30.**

[d] **Money lust** is sadly seen too often in our world, with people valuing money ahead of morality and people. The modern so called “prosperity gospel” is all too often simply money lust sanctified by false doctrine! It is a grave and fatal evil to any individual and church that is polluted by it.

The combination of these four lusts is a demonstration of satanic pride and self centeredness, which invariably will eventually be accompanied by envy, jealousy and the like. Money is not evil, but its love for itself is an evil, and we are to seek the Lord’s purposes never the things that money can buy. **1 Timothy 6:10.**

The pastor has the responsibility to protect the Lord’s flock from evil workers, and counsel church workers who are enticed too easily by evil. If the pastor is doing a good job they will not only have “fellow workers” in the Lord, but also emissaries from Satan to undermine them from within the church. The enemy will always put all his best troops into the church, as there they can do the most damage to God’s people. The pastor has to pick the difference between the genuine brethren and the false brethren, and must do so quickly, before the “wolves” eat the sheep.

Jesus assists us here in **Matthew 7:13-23.** *“13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

We must be clear thinking “Fruit Inspectors” of potential church membership and leadership candidates. We must also be quick “fruit inspectors” of all in leadership positions and all who argue for their opinions strongly. The pastor has to be tough in applying truth into situations, but always fair.

We all have weaknesses in our lives, all of us having an Old Sin Nature [OSN] which we inherited from Adam. We can all sin, but we must be careful that the sins of others do not hurt the sheep and lambs under our care. We are responsible to the Lord for the care of the Sheep.

We must be careful that we do not develop a critical spirit towards others, for we also are weak in some area, but the challenge is to deal with sin honestly so that the flock of God is safe. **James 3:5-18.** We honestly deal with our own sins and we set the same standard for others. As pastors we must ensure that those who refuse to deal with sin, or encourage others to sin, are corrected and restored to true faith, or if they refuse to do so, eliminated from the church before they hurt others.

All of us are tempted to sins depending on the traits of our own O.S.N, and so no-one is superior or inferior to another, but all must face their sins and stop them in their tracks! We are all challenged to resist the devil and our own OSN, not ever surrender to temptation.

James 4:6-10. *“6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

OLD SIN NATURE – our inner enemy

1. The OLD SIN NATURE is the source of spiritual death, we are born with it. (**Ephesians 2:1, Romans 5:1 2**)
2. The OLD SIN NATURE is perpetuated in the human race by physical birth. (**Psalm 51:5, 1Timothy 2:1 3, 14**)
3. The believer continues to have an OLD SIN NATURE after salvation. (**1 John 1:8, 1 Corinthians 3:1**)
4. The believer under the control of the OLD SIN NATURE is designated carnal. (**Romans 7:14, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3**)
5. The OLD SIN NATURE frustrates true production of the Christian life ie. divine good. (**Romans 7:15**)
6. Nomenclature for the OLD SIN NATURE:
 - (a) Flesh **Galatians 5:1 6**
 - (b) Old Man **Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:9**
 - (c) Carnal **Romans 7:14**
 - (d) Sin **Romans 5:12**
 - (e) Heart **Jeremiah 17:9**
 - (f) Member **Colossians 3:5**
7. The OLD SIN NATURE has essence. **Romans 6:6**
 - (a) Area of weakness – sins **Hebrews 12:1**
 - (b) Area of strength - human good **Isaiah 64:6**
 - (c) Lust patterns - asceticism, lasciviousness **Romans 7:7**
8. The solution to the OLD SIN NATURE involves divine judgment.
 - Sin - Judged at the cross
 - Salvation - Sin is judged
 - Christian Walk - Confession
 - Heaven - Judgment seat of Christ
9. The OLD SIN NATURE is not found in **Philippians 3:21, 1 Thessalonians 5:23**, for in the resurrection body of the believer there is no OSN. (**1 Corinthians 15:56**). In heaven we are finally free of this legacy of Adam's Fall.

James 1:13-15. *"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death".*

According to this passage from James lust is in the mind and it conceives and gives birth to sin in the body and if not resisted and dealt with, it ends in spiritual death. Ask the Lord daily to help protect you from that evil influence within. Do not court seduction by going to places that make temptations stronger and harder to face and defeat. When we sin we like to look round and blame others, but we are challenged to take personal responsibility every time.

We are tempted from our inherited OSN; but it is our own fault when we succumb to that temptation rather than walking in the Spirit and defeating it. We must learn to take responsibility for our own sin and deal with it by prompt Confession of Sin. You are a sinner by nature through Adam, but praise God, for that is why Christ died for you. "In Christ Jesus you have a different destiny, and through the Spirit the power to resist sin. Deal with whatever sin has been expressed through your weakness, and confess your sin, **1 John 1:5-10**, and return to a close walk with the Lord.

We may have a demon assigned to us by the enemy to hassle us, but we also have an angel to protect us from the demonic forces, and we have the indwelling Holy Spirit. **Hebrews 1:14, 1 John 4:4**.

We cannot be better protected by the Lord. We are our own worst problem, from our own OSN, not any demon of “x” or “y”. Satan does not directly cause the sin in 99% of cases. You have to be almost as great as the Apostle Paul to have Satan directly tempt you. Satan is limited, although he tries to pretend to all that he is not. He can only be in one place at any time and I don’t think it is with you or I! The Holy Spirit is however at all times within you so demons cannot possess you, or harass/hurt you if you walk in Holy Spirit power on God’s called path for your life.

The Bible says nothing about believers being demon possessed. They can however influence and assault you, but this can be countered by walking in the filling of the Holy Spirit with spiritual armour on. Through knowledge of Bible doctrine, as we walk in the Holy Spirit’s presence, we walk with protection and power against evil’s worst work. From the **Hebrews 1:14** passage we are told that we have our guardian angel there to support us also. James and Proverbs are matching pairs in their encouragement over these things.

Proverbs 1:10-19 *"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: we shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: my son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: for their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof."*

Here Solomon advises his son to refrain from bad company and sin. It also shows that peer pressure 3000 years ago was the same as in our own day. It is hard for very young Christians to stay safe from being influenced by peer pressure.

Proverbs 5: 1-11 *"My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: that thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge. For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: but her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; and thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed",*

Hear Solomon and develop some safe practise guidelines – or protocols for pastoral care. From this and similar teaching passages we deduce that no male pastor should ever privately counsel a female alone. The older women should minister to the younger women. In the above passage the “strange woman” is simply a woman “not for you”. She is for someone else and you are to stay away from all women who are not your own partner for life. Pastors must particularly guard themselves against sexual temptations, both male and female, for this remains the easiest way for the enemy to ankle tap every powerful servant of God.

In the ministry you will have opportunity to sin in this area much more than before you were a minister, as you are meeting vulnerable people all the time, and you can be tempted through caring for them. Remember the statistics here; for sexual sin leads to more people leaving ministry than any other sin. In verse 8 you are told to remove away far from her. Definite and immediate action to distance yourself from temptation is required. Enticement means you are being led away from the path on which you should be walking, and that is the danger that all satanic forces focus their energy upon. Satanic attack always tries to deceive, distract, derail, and finally destroy. Spot his “devices” and avoid them.

Notes

LECTURE 4. – KNOWLEDGE OF GOD’S WORD

It is important to not only learn **about** God's Word but that all knowledge gained from scriptural study should change your life, giving you working knowledge (*epignosis*) to apply into daily decision making. Faith that doesn't work out in daily life in holy and powerful living is not saving faith! **Re-read James 2:12-26, 2 Peter 3:18.**

Paul talks about wisdom (*Sophia*). Sophia is knowledge that has been applied over time and become part of the structure of the person's thinking – it is now full and complete “wisdom” in the soul. “Sophia” is mature thinking patterns established by long habit of obedience to the revealed truths of scripture.

Initially God has to hit us over the head to bring us to Him, but he wants us to freely hear, understand and obey, and walk through time without needing the “stick” on our back or head so often.

As we hear the Word and obey it more and more, we will be transformed by the Spirit. The Word of God has as its **primary objective** that you might grow in true godly wisdom, but that only happens if you will listen to it and live it.

Secondly, from the Word you are able to discern not only what is good and bad, but what is good, and what is the best.

Thirdly, you must receive the instruction of wisdom that you might become teachable, and honestly welcome correction.

Fourthly, you are to protect the naive from those who will despitely use them – the wolves pretending they are sheep.

Fifthly, wisdom develops within so that you might give wise counsel. It is not that we are the problem solver, but that we take people to the Word of God where the Holy Spirit is a problem solver. We do not save anyone, the Holy Spirit convicts them and regenerates them. We do not become wise in our own conceit, but humbly open our lives to God's truth and transform our lives and the lives of others through its wisdom and power.

Sixthly, you will be able to understand “dark sayings” and interpret solutions to complicated problems. The same Spirit which taught Peter and Paul is in you and, and always remember that, “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world”. **1 John 4:4.** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and as we stand daily in the awesome presence of God, so we learn to trust the Holy Spirit and the Bible for all things we face. **Proverbs 1:7, 2:1-5, 3:1-7.**

We should not ever get casual, cute, or chummy in our language of prayer with God, but be very respectful to our Lord and our God. Remember Thomas, and be humble and respectful. **John 20:24-28.**

We have the best teacher in the universe, the Holy Spirit. Human I.Q. is not a factor in understanding the Scriptures from a doctrinal viewpoint for the Holy Spirit teaches truth within. Those who have little formal education often discover the ability to learn other things after they have obediently studied the Word for a time and had the greatest teacher – the Holy Spirit – teach them to learn new things and apply them. God gives and gives more and more grace – the believer is simply challenged to open his heart and mind and learn of Him.

Expect suffering and grief during the study of this course, for it is under pressure that we learn more. That which is hard will require self discipline, and self discipline increases strength and Holy Spirit dependence. As we lean more heavily upon the inner ministries of the Holy Spirit, so we build lasting strength to withstand evil and sin. Grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ through this process.

We should prepare for disaster now as when it comes it will not be disaster, but an opportunity to practise faith and worship in more power. **Romans 8:26-28.** The sign of a revival is not everyone going out to the front alone, but everyone praying together, and then getting into the Word of God together, and living it's principles in daily life.

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

HOLY SPIRIT AS TEACHER

1. He was promised. [**Proverbs 1:23**]
2. He is the Spirit of Wisdom. [**Isaiah 11:2, 40:13-14**]
3. He was given to the Saints. [**1 Corinthians 2:12-13**]
4. He reveals the things of God. [**1 Corinthians 10:13**]
5. He reveals the things of Christ. [**John 16:14**]
6. He guides into all truth. [**John 14:26, 16:13**]
7. He enables ministers to teach. [**1 Corinthians 12:8**]
8. He teaches the saints to answer persecutors. [**Mark 13:11, Luke 12:12**]
9. He directs in the way of godliness. [**Isaiah 30:21, Ezekiel 36:27**]
10. He brings the words of Christ to remembrance. [**John 14:26**]

Revivals start off with your self. It is important to put the Lord Jesus Christ first. Seek Him.

Matthew 6:33 *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

Reflect upon the Proverbs passages above

Notes

LECTURE 5 – THE CHARACTER OF GOD**The Holy and Dependable Character of God**

This is the starting point of all theology. It is important to understand the holiness and absolute stability of God. Nowadays many are casual with God in their prayers, and that is something that no-one in the Scriptures ever does. We should have reverence and humility before a Holy and Absolute Almighty God. People often pray to God the Father in a less than reverent attitude than we go to our earthly bosses. Knowledge of God must have an impact on your life and it should change our prayers and behaviours. Let us be like our spiritual ancestors and stand before the Lord our God with dignity and reverence. **Jude 3.**

1 John 1:5 – 10. *"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us".*

In verse 5 we see that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. The light will shine on your sins and any evil thoughts you harbour, and will demand a response from you in regard to your sin. Light demands action, for it shows work to be done, and if we do not do it we prove we hate light and love the darkness! If we claim to walk with God and yet persist in our walk in sin we are liars and hypocrites.

John 3:16-21 *"16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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

20. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

1 John 2:1-11. *"1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

7. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."

If the pastor is a spiritually alive pastor she/he will either change the church in which there is unconfessed sin, or the church will reject them, and drive them out from their midst. Don't be surprised at this, for many of the greatest Pastors have been treated badly by the congregations they led to the Lord's feet. As a minister you should be walking in close fellowship with the Lord God, and so sin and evil are very powerfully felt by you and you are keeping very short accounts with God, dealing with anything in your own life as it crops up. Being in fellowship with Him means you are aware of anything that causes pain to the Lord, so that the messages you give are direct from God. If you are rejected make sure it is for the right reasons.

You may be very blunt at times and people will feel the deep conviction from the Holy Spirit. When we walk close to the Lord the Holy Spirit will move in power. We speak the truth in love, **Ephesians 4:15**. Provided you are truthful, you can rest in the Lord's provision for you if people reject the truth. You will be hated at times, especially by those who have rejected the Lord and his Word. You are in good company – just make sure you are not obnoxious in your life/lips.

John 15:18-27. *“18. If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.
19. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
20. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.
21. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.
22. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.
23. He that hateth me hateth my Father also.
24. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.
25. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.
26. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
27. And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”*

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

GOD – CHARACTER OF GOD

1. Whilst God is three persons all three persons have exactly the same essence or character:

SOVEREIGNTY

The Father (**Ephesians 1:11, cf. Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 6:10, Hebrews 10:7, 9**)

The Son (**John 5:21, Revelation 19:16**)

The Spirit (**1 Corinthians 12:11, cf. Hebrews 2:4**)

RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Father (**John 17:25**)

The Son (**Luke 1:35, Hebrews 7:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21**)

The Spirit - The Holy Spirit

JUSTICE

The Father (**Job 37:23, cf. 8:3**)

The Son (**Acts 3:14, John 5:22, Revelation 19:11**)

The Spirit (**Nehemiah 9:20**)

LOVE

The Father (**John 3:16**)

The Son (**Ephesians 5:25, 1 John 3:16**)

The Spirit (**John 16:7-11, 1 Corinthians 2:10**)

ETERNAL LIFE

The Father (**John 5:26**)

The Son (**Micah 5:2, cf. John 1:1-2, 1 John 5:11**)

The Spirit (**Isaiah 48:16**)

ALL-KNOWING

The Father (**Hebrews 4:13, cf. Matthew 11:27, 1 Peter 1:2**)

The Son (**John 18:4, cf. Matthew 9:4, John 2:25, 1 Corinthians 4:5**)

The Spirit (**Isaiah 11:2, cf. 1 Corinthians 2:11**)

EVERYWHERE

The Father (**2 Chronicles 2:6**)
 The Son (**Matthew 28:20, cf. Ephesians 1:23**)
 The Spirit (**Psalms 139:7**)

ALL-POWERFUL

The Father (**Mark 14:36, cf. 1 Peter 1:5**)
 The Son (**Hebrews 1:3, cf. Matthew 24:30, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 3:21**)
 The Spirit (**Romans 15:19**)

UNCHANGABLE

The Father (**Hebrews 6:17, Psalm 33:11**)
 The Son (**Hebrews 13:8**)
 The Spirit (**John 14:16**)

TRUTH

The Father (**John 7:28, John 17:3**)
 The Son (**1 John 5:20, cf. John 1:14, 14:6, Revelation 19:11**)
 The Spirit (**1 John 5:6, cf. John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13**)

It was knowledge of the Holy an absolutely dependable Character of God that took Moses through the deserts of Midian and will take you through the deserts of life. God is absolutely stable and just. If you have difficulty in the Christian life remember the Character of God. Recognising He is absolutely holy and that you are sinful, deal with any sin in your life using 1 John 1:9. Then commit your way to the Lord. You will then be walking in the Spirit with Him.

As God is sovereign, anything that occurs to you as a Christian on God's path for your life, has been allowed by God, as Scripture tells us firmly that God is never ever unfair. Everything God does he does through his total character.

It does not matter where you are in the universe God is there and there is no place he cannot help you. From the character of God it is possible to construct many of the promises of God from first principles. As you accept the total stability and the power of God you can have total dependability and confidence as a Christian.

Start any new ministry by strongly teaching the character of God and confession of sin and you have a good chance of the church in which you are ministering getting up and moving.

NAMES OF GOD

1. In the Old Testament God reveals Himself and His character by His names as meeting every human need.

(a)	EL - The strong one (singular)	2 Samuel 22:33
(b)	EL ELYON - The most high God	Genesis 14:18-22
(c)	EL OLAM - The everlasting God	Genesis 21:33
(d)	EL SHADDAI -The almighty one	Genesis 17:1
(e)	ELOHIM - The all powerful one. (plural)	Genesis 1:1
(f)	JEHOVAH - The self-existent one	Exodus 3:14
(g)	JEHOVAH-ELOHIM - Lord God, Creator	Exodus 3:6
(h)	JEHOVAH-JIREH - Jehovah will provide	Genesis 22:1 3, 14
(i)	JEHOVAH -NISSI - Jehovah is my banner	Exodus 17:1 5
(j)	JEHOVAH-RAAH - Jehovah is my Shepherd	Psalms 23:1
(k)	JEHOVAH-RAPHA - Jehovah that Heals	Exodus 15:25, 26
(l)	JEHOVAH-SABOATH - Lord of hosts	Psalms 46:7, 11
(m)	JEHOVAH-SHALOM - Jehovah is peace	Judges 6:24
(n)	JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH - Jehovah is there	Ezekiel 48:35
(o)	JEHOVAH TSIDKENU-Jehovah our righteousness	Jeremiah 33:16

TRINITY

1. The Trinity is defined as one God subsisting in three modes of existence. (**2 Samuel 23:1-3, Isaiah 48:16, Isaiah 63:7-10, Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:33, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 Peter 1:2**)
2. Affirmed in the Old Testament by the use of the plural pronoun 'US' for God in (**Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7**). Also the use of the plural Hebrew word ELOHIM (**Deuteronomy 6:4**) and the Tetragrammaton JHWH or JEHOVAH, referring to a single member of the Godhead.
3. Each member of the Trinity has identical essence but is a separate person as illustrated by light. (**1John 1:5**)
 - (a) Father - Actinic - not seen, not felt.
 - (b) Son - Luminiferous - both seen and felt.
 - (c) Spirit - Calorific - not seen but felt.
4. When the Bible refers to God as One it always refers to essence or uniqueness. (**Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9**)
5. When the Bible distinguishes between members of the Godhead, it refers to the activity or function of a specific person. viz. Father, Son or Holy Spirit. (**1 Peter 1:2, 3**)
6. The Bible assigns to each Person in the Godhead a different function in salvation.
 - (a) Father - planned salvation (**Isaiah 14:27, John 4:34, 5:17, 12:44, 1 Corinthians 8:6a, Ephesians 3:11**)
 - (b) Son - executed salvation (**John 4:34, 5:17, Hebrews 10:7**)
 - (c) Spirit - reveals salvation (**John 16:8-11**)
7. Each person in the Trinity performs a different function in the Plan of God.
 - (a) Stage 1 - salvation - Jesus Christ (**Romans 5:6-8**)
 - (b) Stage 2 - believer in time - Holy Spirit (**John 16:13, John 16, 14, 1 Corinthians 2:10**)
 - (c) Stage 3 - believer in eternity - Father (**John 14:1, 2**)
8. Jesus Christ is the only visible member of the Trinity. (**John 1: 18, 6:46, 1 Timothy 6:16, 1 John 4:12**)

The different functions yet the unity of the Godhead is of great importance. Where God is one it relates to the character of God whilst where there are different functions there is different personalities.

Notes -

LECTURE 6 - THE SIN BARRIER BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

Romans 3:23 *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God";*

There is a fatal barrier between God and each of us, the fact of sin that entered the human race with Adam's Fall. Since that event the tendency to sin is inherited through the generations. Each of us is born with an Old Sin Nature, and this is expressed in our lives by personal sin. We all have three "strikes" against us; Adam's Imputed sin, our Old Sin Nature tendency to sin, and personal sins. Each of us has universally failed to attain the absolute standard of the righteousness of God for which we were made originally. Man needs more than a "little help" – each man and woman needs total and complete help to become acceptable to the Lord.

John 3:1-21 *"There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

In this passage Jesus brought Nicodemus face to face with what theology calls "the sin barrier". We start our study with the solution to the sin barrier.

THE BARRIER BETWEEN GOD AND MAN**INTRODUCTION**

- (1) Divine Essence:
 - (a) God is sovereign, absolute righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, all powerful, all knowing everywhere, unchangeable and truth.
 - (b) God is one in essence but three in personality: 'God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three personalities have the same essence.
 - (c) God the Father is the planner of man's salvation; God the Son is the executor of the plan of salvation, and God the Holy Spirit is the revealer of this plan.
- (2) God's Divine Plan:
 - (a) A conference was held in eternity past between God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Divine Planning) whereby it was made possible for man to have fellowship with God.
 - (b) God's foreknowledge recognised a barrier would exist in time and that all people would be behind this barrier. **(Romans 3:23)**
 - (c) Sin is a failure to measure up to God's perfect righteousness, a failure to possess "The perfect righteousness". Man cannot remove this barrier. God's Righteousness and Justice must be satisfied before His love can come to man.

- (d) God the Father is the author of a plan whereby He decided to treat the human race on the basis of Grace (all the Father does for us). Grace is receiving a gift. It is undeserved and unmerited, and contrary to all human concepts.
- (e) God the Son removed the barrier by His death on the cross. We receive Him as our personal Saviour, and perfect righteousness is credited to us. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

AN EXPLANATION OF THE BARRIER AND ITS REMOVAL

3. Problem of Sin:

- (a) Sin exists in three categories: imputed sin, (all sinned when Adam sinned) inherent sin (the sinful nature) personal sin (sins committed).
- (b) Man is a sinner because Adam sinned and passed down the sin nature to the human race. The penalty of sin is spiritual death **(Romans 5:12, 6:23)** Every member of the human race is a sinner as far as God is concerned. **(Romans 3:23)**
- (c) In John 8:31-32 Jesus Christ addressed the Jews who believed on Him and told them to go on in truth and use what He provided. Truth sets us free from the Mosaic Law to serve the Lord and operate in grace.
- (d) The unbelieving, religious Jews (v 33) said they were Abraham's seed and not in bondage. They were actually in bondage to the Roman Empire, their religious leaders, and the Mosaic Law. He told them about the bondage of sin.
- (e) They are all born in the slave market of sin, for no member of the human race can free himself or other members of the human race. Jesus Christ became true humanity to liberate the human race. He was born outside the slave market of sin by the virgin birth as the God-Man. He paid the price for freedom of the human race - this is redemption.

4. Solution to the Problem of Sin: Redemption and Atonement:

- (a) *The "son abides in the house forever"* **(John 8:35)**, for Jesus Christ is "the son". He is eternal life and holy and when man believes on Him man is free and enters into union with Jesus Christ. Christianity is a relationship to Jesus Christ, not a religion.
- (b) The purchase price of our redemption is His blood **(1 Peter 1:18,19, Ephesians 1:7, Revelation 1:5, Hebrews 9:11-14, Galatians 3:13)**, representing His death. Jesus Christ bore the sins of the whole world (past, present and future) on the cross.
- (c) God is absolute righteousness and justice; the wages of sin is death **(Romans 6:23, Colossians 2:14)**. Jesus Christ cancelled the "I.O.U." the human race owed God. The human race owes God perfect righteousness.
- (d) God is perfect righteousness and we cannot pay perfect righteousness. Jesus Christ died on the cross, paying the penalty of our sins. This is expiation **(Romans 5:8)**
- (e) The doctrines of Redemption and Expiation are found in **Psalms 22:1-6**. God the Father and Holy Spirit left the Son because He was bearing our sins on the cross. **(Matthew 27:46)**

5. The Problem of Physical Birth (John 3) and its Solution: Regeneration: **(John 3:1-15)**

- (a) Nicodemus (v 1) was a Pharisee, a "do-gooder". He was a very religious man, attending church three times a day and praying seven times a day. He was sincere and was a product of "salvation by works".
- (b) He was also a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night because he was too busy during the day doing "good". (v 2)
- (c) He called Jesus Rabbi or "Doctor". He admitted more than most Pharisees for he said they knew Jesus came from God, for no one could keep doing the miracles He did except God was with Him. (v 2)
- (d) Jesus interrupted, knowing his problem. "Except a man be born again". Nicodemus needed to be born again. (v 3)
- (e) Why is the new birth necessary? Man is born in this world with a soul (ability to understand and categorise human phenomena), a conscience (standard by which we judge right or wrong), and an old sin nature (the source of all personal sins). The human spirit is inactivated. We are born physically alive and capable of having fellowship with members of the human race, but we are spiritually dead and cannot have fellowship with God (Ephesians 2:1). We need to be born again.
- (f) Nicodemus' response (v 4). He cannot think in terms of spiritual things for he has no human spirit. He asked if he could be born again physically.
- (g) The new birth is a spiritual birth (v 5), so Jesus Christ uses spiritual language, - water.
 - (i) The context determines the meaning of "water"

- (1) Salvation - (**Isaiah 55:1, Revelation 22:17**)
 (2) God the Holy Spirit - (**John 7:37-39**)
 (3) God's Word - (**1 Peter 1:23, Ephesians 5:26, James 1:18**)
- (ii) Here "water" is used symbolically for God's Word. The new birth is a spiritual birth. The Kingdom of God is the kingdom of eternal relationship with God.
- (h) Contrast of two births (v 6). "That which is born of the flesh is flesh (physical birth). That which is born of the Spirit is spirit (spiritual birth)." Nicodemus should not be surprised (v 7). He needed to be born again.
- (i) The illustration (v 8) the wind. It can be heard but not seen. The new birth is not visible. Nicodemus still does not understand (v 9).
- (j) Jesus Christ used sarcasm (v 9-10) to shock Nicodemus. He is a doctor of divinity and does not understand. The Trinity ("we") knows what they speak (all knowing). Nicodemus does not have an open mind.
- (k) No member of the human race (v 13) ever ascended, but Jesus Christ who came from heaven (as the God Man). As God He is everywhere, and as God and Man, Jesus Christ is on earth at the same time.
- (l) How to be born again (v 14). Jesus Christ refers to (**Numbers 21:4-9**) the incident of the brazen serpent which was raised on a pole. This pictures Jesus Christ hanging on the cross bearing the sins of the world. (**Colossians 2:14,15**)
- (m) The result (v 15). Whoever believes in Jesus Christ shall not perish but have eternal life. The problem of physical birth is removed by the new birth. We are born spiritually by regeneration or the new birth.
6. Problem of Human Righteousness and Its Solution: Justification and Imputation:
- (a) Man has no righteousness in himself as far as God's viewpoint is concerned although he may be more righteous than other members of the human race when he compares himself with them. (**Isaiah 64:6**)
- (b) God is absolute righteousness and He cannot have fellowship with us when we have human righteousness. Good deeds put us more in debt to God. (**Romans 4:1-4**)
- (c) Perfect or absolute righteousness is credited or imputed to us at the moment of salvation. (**2Corinthians 5:21**) -imputation.
- (d) We are justified or made righteous on the basis of the absolute righteousness which God gives us.
7. Problem of the Character of God and Its Solution: Propitiation and Reconciliation.
- (a) Propitiation is an act of God whereby He is satisfied with the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Jesus Christ satisfied the righteousness and justice of God.
- (b) Reconciliation looks at the cross from man's viewpoint. Man is reconciled to God. God is never said to be reconciled. Propitiation looks at the cross from God's viewpoint.
8. Problem of Position in Adam and Its Solution: Positional Truth:
- (a) At the moment of salvation we enter into union with Jesus Christ (**Romans 8:38,39, 2Corinthians 5:17**). This is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 12:13**)
- (b) By our first birth we are "in Adam" (**1 Corinthians 15:22**). By the new birth we share Christ's eternal life, His righteousness, His destiny, His sonship, His priesthood. etc. Everything He is, we are-, and all He has, we have.
- (c) Christianity is a relationship to Jesus Christ that cannot change. The barrier between God and man has been removed by Jesus Christ on the cross.
- (d) The issue now is the person of Jesus Christ. He has solved the problem of sin in the human race.

God has an absolute standard. We fall short of that standard. The good news for all of us however is that there is an answer given to us by our creator - but there is no other way than His way. God made us, our ancestor sinned, and God made the way back after sin destroyed things for us and the entire creation.

John 14:6 *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

There is a great gulf between God and each person, which is only bridged by the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. The biblical image used to describe what God did is the term "redemption" – a term from setting a slave free in the ancient world.

The slave in the ancient world could pay a large amount of money (redemption money) to pay the master/owner and so set himself to be free. The slave had no legal right to set himself free, but by lodging the money in the temple, the “god” of the temple and those priests would technically set the slave free and pay the money to the master.

The slave would have to lodge the redemption money in the pagan temple, and the slave’s master would pick it up from the priests, minus a “commission”. The name of the freed slave was permanently engraved in the marble of the back wall of the temple as a record of the transaction and many can still be seen in the ruins of temples today. This became a powerful picture of what Jesus did for us on the Cross, paying the price of the freedom of all mankind, and permanently engraving our names in heaven, as people covered by his blood. **1 John 2:2.** *“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

The law of God is absolute and requires an infinite payment when abrogated, a price that no man can pay. Only Jesus the Messiah/Christ being a free and sinless man can pay that price. The more you understand about the work at the cross in redemption, propitiation, expiation and other doctrines the more you appreciate the work and person of Christ.

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

REDEMPTION

1. DEFINITION: The purchase of a slave from the slave market of sin and the act of setting him free.
2. The principle of redemption is found in (**John 8:31-36**).
3. Christ paid the ransom for sin on the cross. In other words, He purchased our redemption. (**Psalm 34:22; Galatians 3:13; 1 Timothy 2:6; 1 Peter 1:18,19**).
4. Redemption is a doctrine which the believer can apply in times of pressure and catastrophe (**Job 19:25,26**), thereby finding both blessing and happiness.
5. Redemption results in adoption (**Galatians 4:4-6**).
6. Redemption provides the basis for the believer's eternal inheritance (**Hebrews 9:15**).
7. The blood of Christ is the ransom money or the purchase price of redemption (**Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; 1 Peter 1:13,19; 1 John 1:7**).
8. Redemption includes forgiveness of sin (**Hebrews 9:22**).
9. Redemption provides the basis of justification and immediate cleansing at salvation (**Romans 3:24**).
10. Redemption is the basis of our cleansing from sin during our Christian walk. (**Leviticus 6:1-6; 1 John 1:7,9**).

JUSTIFICATION

1. DEFINITION: - Justification means "vindication", therefore it is the judicial act of God whereby he imputes His righteousness to the new believer at the point of salvation, thereby justifying him. **2Corinthians 5:21**
2. Salvation justification occurs at the moment of faith in Christ. (**Romans 3:28, 5: 1, Galatians 3:24**)
3. Salvation justification is based on the principle of grace. (**Romans 3:24, Titus 3:7**)

4. Therefore salvation justification does not occur through the Mosaic Law. **(Romans 3:20, 28, Galatians 2:16)**
5. Salvation justification is the imputation of divine righteousness to the one believing in Christ. **(Genesis 15:6, Romans 3:22, 4:4, 5, 16, 8:30-32)**
6. The work of justification was accomplished by Christ on the cross. **(Romans 5:8, 9)**
7. Because the work for our justification was accomplished on the cross, Christ was resurrected to relate justification to victory. **(Romans 4:25)**
8. Post salvation or Christian life justification is the production of maturity. **(James 2:21-25)**

IMPUTATION

1. Abraham is the pattern of imputation of divine righteousness. **(Genesis 15:6)**
2. Divine righteousness is imputed only on the basis of faith in Christ. **(Romans 3:22)**
3. Many Gentiles of Old Testament times found God's righteousness by believing in Christ while many Jews, relying on the Law, missed imputation. **(Romans 9:30-33)**
4. Imputation is the basis of Justification. **(Romans 4:22, 5:1)**
5. Imputation encourages faith in Christ. **(Romans 4:24, 25)**
6. Imputation is based on the work of Christ on the Cross. **(2 Corinthians 5-21)**

PROPITIATION

1. The mercy seat in the Tabernacle was the place of propitiation.
2. The concept of the mercy seat must be understood in the light of the ark of the covenant. **(Exodus 25:10-22, 37:1-9)**
3. The ark of the covenant was a wooden box (45" x 27" x 27") constructed of acacia wood (the humanity of Christ) overlaid with gold (the Deity of Christ)
4. Contents of the ark, the golden pot of manna, the tablets of stone and Aaron's rod that budded.(Hebrews 9:4). The tablets of stone represented man's transgressions against God's perfect standard, the rod that budded stood for man's rebellion against established authority, the pot of manna showed man's rejection of divine provision.
5. The content of the ark is a picture of Christ bearing our sins in His body on the tree. **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**
6. The mercy seat was a solid gold lid which fitted over the ark and bore two golden cherubs, one on each end representing God's holiness. **(Hebrews 9:5)**
7. Once every year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest entered twice into the Holy of Holies with a bowl of blood (once for his own sins and once for the sins of the people) **(Hebrews 9:7)**. He sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat. God's righteousness and justice were satisfied. His holiness was not compromised in this manner and God was propitiated or covered.
8. Because of propitiation, or satisfaction of His holy character, God is free to love the believer.
9. The mercy seat represented propitiation with emphasis on the person of Jesus Christ, our own great High Priest.

10. The New Testament mention of the words "mercy seat" in **Hebrews 9:5** has the same concept as the word propitiation (Hilasterion) in **Romans 3:25**.
11. Propitiation is used to express the true and perfect love of God for all believers regardless of their status. (**1 John 4:10**)
12. Propitiation is used to relate the person of Christ and the "covering" of God's character. (**Romans 3:25**)

RECONCILIATION

1. Definition: Reconciliation is the removal of the barrier between God and man, or peace between God and man. While redemption is sinward and propitiation is Godward, reconciliation is manward. (**2Corinthians 5:18, Ephesians 2:16, Colossians 1:20, 21**)
2. Reconciliation and the blood of Christ.
 - (a) The blood of Christ is a synonym for the saving work of Christ on the Cross and the basis for reconciliation. (**Colossians 1:20**)
 - (b) Hence the work of the Cross is associated with reconciliation. (**Ephesians 2:16**)
3. Reconciliation and Mankind: under the concept of reconciliation mankind is regarded as the enemy of God. (**Romans 5:10, Colossians 1:21**)
4. Peace, a synonym for reconciliation, reconciliation finds man the enemy of God, but the saving work of Christ on the Cross gives peace between God and man. (**Ephesians 2:14 cf. 2:16 cf. Colossians 1:20**)
5. Reconciliation portrayed in the Levitical Offerings: the peace offering of Leviticus 3 depicts reconciliation or Christ's removing the barrier between God and man. (**Leviticus 7:11-38, 8:15**)
6. Application of reconciliation to the Church Age believer: every member of the Body of Christ is an ambassador representing Christ on earth. Therefore each member of the Body of Christ has the ministry of reconciliation. (**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**)
7. The prophecy of reconciliation. (**Isaiah 57:19**)
8. The means of reconciliation - the removal of the barrier:
 - (a) Sin removed by unlimited atonement. (**2 Corinthians 5:14, 15, 18, 1 Timothy 2:6, 4:10, Titus 2:11, Hebrews 2:9, 1 John 2:2**)
 - (b) Penalty of Sin removed by expiation. (**Psalms 22:1-6, Colossians 2:14**)
 - (c) Problem of physical birth removed by regeneration. (**John 3:1-18, Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 1:23**)
 - (d) Relative righteousness removed by imputation. (**Romans 3:22, 9:30, 10:10, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 3:9, Hebrews 10:14**) and justification (**Romans 4:1-5, 4:25, 5:1, 8:29, 30, Galatians 2:16, Titus 3:7**)
9. The barrier of God's perfect character removed by propitiation. (**Romans 3:22-26, 1 John 2:1, 2**)
10. Problem of position in Adam removed by positional sanctification. (**1 Corinthians 15:22, 2Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 1:3-6**)

If you are going to be a minister the Cross must be everything. The position of the unbeliever is "in Adam" but for the believer it is "in Christ". In union with Christ we are at the right hand of the Father in heavenly places.

POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION

1. There are three forms of sanctification:
 Stage 1 Salvation - union with the person of Christ - positional sanctification.
 Stage 2 Christian way of life - filling of the Holy Spirit - spirituality.

Stage 3 Resurrection body - In Heaven - Ultimate sanctification.

2. Means of positional sanctification -baptism of the Spirit. (**I Corinthians 12:13**)
3. Positional sanctification applies to the carnal and spiritual believer. (**1 Corinthians 1:2, 1Corinthians 1:30**)
4. Positional sanctification protects the believer from divine judgment. (**Romans 8:1**)
5. Positional sanctification qualifies the believer to live with God forever. To live with God forever you must have three things.
 - (a) God's life - eternal life.
 - (b) God's righteousness - absolute righteousness.
 - (e) God's sinlessness - total holiness.
6. Positional sanctification explains both predestination and election. (**Ephesians 1: 3-6**)
7. Positional sanctification produces a new creature in Christ. (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)
8. Positional sanctification guarantees eternal security for every believer. (**Romans 8:38, 39**)
9. Positional sanctification exists in two categories:
 - (a) Retroactive (Romans 6) -Identified with Christ's death.
 - (b) Current (Colossians 3: 1) - Identified with Christ's new life.
10. Some implications of current positional truth:
 - (a) Everything we have in current positional truth we share what Christ has.
 1. Eternal life (**1 John 5:11, 12**)
 2. Righteousness (**Romans 4:6**)
 3. Election (**Ephesians 1:4**)
 4. Destiny (**Ephesians 1:5**)
 5. Sonship (**2 Timothy 2:1**)
 6. Heirship (**Romans 8:16, 17**)
 7. Sanctification (**1 Corinthians 1:2**)
 8. Kingdom (**2 Peter 1:11**) Royal Priesthood. (**1 Peter 2:9**)
 9. Priesthood (**Hebrews 10:10-14**)
11. Characteristics of positional sanctification:
 - (a) Never an experience or emotion.
 - (b) Not progressive, cannot be improved in time or eternity.
 - (c) Not related to human merit or human good.
 - (d) It is eternal in nature, cannot be changed or removed by God, Angels or Man.
 - (e) Known only by the Word of God.
 - (f) Obtained in total at the point of Salvation.

The Spirit will lead us into all truth. We should be enthusiastic about these things, for the Lord has set us free from sin and death by his great work of salvation. When he arose from the dead on that Easter Sunday morning he proved that all he had done on the Cross was 100% successful – our salvation is permanent and real.

Notes

LECTURE 7 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH

As you began, go on. You began in faith, and so go on in faith. It is grace by faith all the way on this earth when we walk with Jesus. Don't go backwards into legalism or any ritualistic systems, just walk with Jesus by faith, resting in His grace, mercy, and His never failing love. **Ephesians 2:1-10.**

2 Peter 3:17 - 18. *"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen"*

As we grow we should become more like Jesus – his character being formed in us as we allow the Holy Spirit to convict us, teach us, and transform our desires and thinking patterns.

Ephesians 4:11 – 16. *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."*

God wants his children to grow up and mature to do whatever He has for them to do. In verse 12 the word "perfecting" means completing so that they might minister to the benefit of the whole body of Christ. The Holy Spirit will assist you to grow up spiritually, and will direct you in all the paths to walk, showing what you are meant to do with your life. **Psalm 16:11, 27:11, 119:105, Proverbs 2:9, 4:26.** As we open the Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to enlighten its words into our hearts, and apply it into daily life, so we grow as we are meant to.

Proverbs 3:1-8. *"1. My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
2. For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
3. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:
4. So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
5. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
6. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
7. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.
8. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."*

It is important that the young believers in each church grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ so that they can detect false doctrine when it infiltrates the church. Every pastor is responsible to teach every young believer so that they are protected by truth, and strengthened in it for service. The Word of God should be systematically taught to God's people. It is the Holy Spirit through the truth of the Word who will bind a church together and unify them in the stability that comes from the truth being known. It is in the truths of Bible doctrine that the young believer learns just how great the love of the Lord Jesus Christ is for them. As the pastor feeds the flock the Word of God the Holy Spirit produces a strong unity and team spirit within the church that nothing else can manufacture. Many churches try to create such a spirit using human techniques and social activities but this is a false approach – only the Holy Spirit does this in truth. Let the Holy Spirit bind God's people in your local area, and then there will be power in the local church.

We as believers should be full of knowledge "epignosis" which is "working" or "full knowledge" rather than just "gnosis" or academic knowledge. As a result of the Spirit's work within each believer we have changed lives. We are to fire the Lord's people up by the teaching of the truth in the power of the Holy Spirit – let the Holy Spirit bring truth and joy, for that alone is the right way for joy to come. **Nehemiah 8:10.**

Ephesians 1:15 - 23. *"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and*

what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

Maturity is also called "more grace". **James 4:6.** This is a lovely way to think of spiritual growth. You have been saved by grace, you grow or mature in God's grace provisions of the Spirit and the Word, and you receive even more grace right until dying grace takes you home to heaven. As we mature we build up a new structure in the soul, a new way of thinking, seeing the world, and acting in the world. We become quite "new creatures" through the Holy Spirit's work within us. That inner "structure" is God's way of seeing and understanding our world.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21. *"17. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

18. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19. To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

21. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

We are also told, in the Ephesians passage above, to buy up every moment of time we have for the Lord's service, to "redeem the time", and so set up a "defence or command post" in our soul. We must be prepared to follow the Lord into the battles he calls us to fight, and with the Holy Spirit in charge of our lives he is our "command centre". We must be sanctified, equipped in the truth of the Word, and ready to follow the Holy Spirit's direction into battle.

Jeremiah 17:8. *"For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."* (Also **Psalms 1:1-6**, where the righteous person is contrasted to the unrighteous).

This gives us a good picture of a mature Christian with the tree being planted close to a source of life in the form of a river. This tree has its roots deep down in the soil depicting the believer feeding on the Word. The tree is healthy and the sign of a healthy tree is that it produces good fruit. Often immature trees do not produce much fruit. In a similar way it is the mature Christian who produces much fruit.

James 1:25 *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

We should not only learn, but apply what we have learnt. It is also of importance to recognise that you cannot apply what you have not learnt. One of the most critical doctrines to apply in our lives is "Confession of Sin" so that nothing in our life can hinder, grieve, or quench the Holy Spirit.

"Faith – Rest" (In Hebrew = Shabbat-Amen) is a key concept also. Faith is believing God's Word. Rest is resting in the promises and in the truth of the doctrines of God's Word, and applying it into the details of life. A person is what they think over time, and if we think God's Word we will be seeing the world God's way. **Hebrews 3:12-4:16.**

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

PROMISES OF GOD

1. FROM GOD'S VIEWPOINT - When a person promises you something the promise is only as strong as the character of the person making the promise. The character of God is perfect therefore His promises are totally reliable. Whilst all the characteristics can be applied to the promises of God, several characteristics are particularly important.
 - [a] Unchangeable- A promise in the Bible is the same for us in the 20th Century as it was to Paul.
 - [b] All-knowing - God knows all our problems so there is always a promise or doctrine to cater for our difficulties.
 - [c] Love - God will provide for His children.
 - [d] Truth- All the promises are totally true.

2. FROM MAN'S VIEWPOINT
 - (a) We must know the promises.
 - (b) We must believe the promises.
 - (c) We must want to trust in God.

3. HOW MANY PROMISES ARE THERE?
About 7,000 that deal with the Christian on earth.

4. TYPICAL PROMISES FOR VARIOUS STAGES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
 - (a) Stage 1 - Salvation (**John 3:16; Acts 16:31**)
 - (b) Stage 2 - Christian on earth. (**1 John 1:9; Rom 8:28; 1 Peter 5:7**)
 - (c) Stage 3 - Believers in Heaven. (**1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 21:4**)

5. FOR THE CHRISTIAN ON EARTH - HOW DO WE MAKE THEM WORK?
 - (a) We must be a believer in Jesus Christ.
 - (b) Take every promise to mean what it says.
 - (c) Confess all your known sins using the promise in (**1 John 1:9**)
 - (d) If a promise says to do something, do it (ie. pray, believe, confess etc.)
 - (e) Wait for answers, the Lord will answer in His time.
 - (f) Keep a promise notebook, learn the promises.

6. GENERAL SCRIPTURE ON THE PROMISES OF GOD. (**Hebrews 3:7-4:11**)
 - (a) The geographical areas in which the Exodus generation found themselves can represent stages in the Christian life.
 - (i) Egypt - unbelief.
 - (ii) Red Sea crossing - salvation by faith (ie. leaving Egypt)
 - (iii) Wilderness - the carnal and immature Christian life claiming only some promises and failing regularly.
 - (iv) Jordan crossing - full realisation of God's favour by faith.
 - (v) Promised land - the mature Christian resting in the promises and doctrines of God and only failing infrequently.
 - (b) The author of Hebrews in (Chapter 3:7.19) exhorts the Jews at Jerusalem and us not to fall into the same traps as the Exodus generation in unbelief.
 - (c) Questions And Answers on Hebrews (Chapter 4) refers to the Christian on earth.

Verse 1: What happens if we fail to claim a promise? - We lack peace of mind.

Verse 2: What characteristic of God does this verse highlight? - Unchangeable. How are the promises made active? - By being mixed with faith.

Verse 3: Which came first, man or the promises of God? - The promises, God is all-knowing.

Verse 4: Why did God rest? - Because He had provided all things necessary for man.

Verses 5 & 6: Will any succeed in this area? - Yes, some will.

Verse 7: Are the promises still available today? - Yes. What must we do? - Accept God's provision. What must we not do? - Harden our hearts.

Verse 8: Jesus in some translations is, in fact, Joshua.

Verse 9: To whom are the promises available? - Believers only.

Verse 10: What choice have we as a Christian? - Human works or God's works and provision.

Verse 11: What is the great trap? - Unbelief. We should actively pursue the promises of God.

7. MAJOR PROMISES

Learn to claim these when:

- (a) In difficulties. (**Romans 8:28**)
- (b) You have sinned. (**1 John 1:9**)
- (c) You are worried. (**1 Peter 5:7**)
- (d) You have been wronged. (**1 Thessalonians 5:18**)
- (e) Prayer (**Matthew 7:7**)
- (f) You are lonely. (**Hebrews 13:5**)
- (g) You have doubts (**Philippians 4:13**)
- (h) The Bible (**Hebrews 4:12**)
- (i) You cannot sleep. (**Psalms 4:8**)
- (j) You are unhappy. (**Psalms 147:3**)
- (k) You are tempted to retaliate. (**Romans 12:17,19**)
- (l) You are in danger. (**Psalms 23:4**)

Proverbs 23:7 *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee".*

WINNING ATTITUDE – the fruit of Holy Spirit living

1. Every believer faces the inner conflict of divine versus human viewpoint [**Isaiah 55:7-9**]
2. Mental attitude determines both the life and character of a person [**Proverbs 23:7**]
3. As Christians we are commanded to have a divine viewpoint. [**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**]
4. Since the Bible is the mind of Christ and the Word of God knowledge of the Bible and control by the Holy Spirit gives the believer divine viewpoint. [**1 Corinthians 2:16, Philippians 2:15**]
5. Joy produces capacity for the divine viewpoint of life. [**Philippians 2:2**]
6. God's plan calls for a new mental attitude. [**Romans 12:2, Philippians 2:5, 2 Timothy 1:7**]
7. Part of divine viewpoint is confidence which results from knowing doctrine. [**2 Corinthians 5:1,6,8**]
8. Stability comes from a divine viewpoint. [**Isaiah 26:3-4, Philippians 4:7, 2 Thessalonians 2:2**]
9. Giving is a mental attitude. Give yourself and then of your substance [**2 Corinthians 9:7**]
10. Love is a mental attitude in the soul. [**1 Corinthians 13:5**]
11. Human viewpoint is called worldliness. [**Romans 12:2, Colossians 3:2**]
12. Evil is something you think rather than something you do. Doing results from thinking. [**Matthew 9:4, Galatians 6:3**]
13. Mental attitude sins produce self induced misery. [**Proverbs 15:13**]

We are to be examples which others are to follow. It is therefore of great importance that the teachers life is right. If your thinking is based on God's Word the rest of your life will fall into line. Practice what you preach.

Philippians 4:8-9 - *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."*

Fill your mind with God's truth. In many areas of modern media we are surrounded by an increasingly aggressive portrayal of paganism and human viewpoint with those holding a divine viewpoint being ridiculed. It is only the garrison in the soul of truth from Bible doctrine that will keep the soul of the believer safe from being overwhelmed in the devil's world.

Most of the pagan temples in the ancient world were based on sex, and the devil has not changed his strategy through the centuries, for he knows man's weaknesses well and plays to them always. The main satanic attacks still are centred around sexual and other lust based temptations. We should grow to be more like the Lord Jesus, not be like the paganism that surrounds us at times.

Notes

LECTURE 8 - HINDRANCE TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH

Galatians 3:1. *"O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?"*

This verse indicates that there are certain things that can stop the Christian advancing in his walk with the Lord. This is due to [a] sin in your life or [b] lack of doctrine, or [c] carnality (next study below), or [d] immaturity (above, as we have seen). Lack of spiritual growth through a combination of all four factors is shown especially in the passage we saw last time. **Hebrews 3:14- 4:16.** Re-Read this aloud again.

If you do not "mix the promises of God with your faith" (apply the Word to Life) you are ineffective as a Christian and will fail to grow. The example given by the author of Hebrews is the children of Israel in the Wilderness, where the Lord judged all but two of those that left Egypt and did not allow them to go into the Promised Land.

In verse 13 of chapter 4 we are reminded that God knows us through and through. We therefore have to apply His commands by applying the Word of God to our daily changing situations, for the Lord knows all the details of our life and all we are asked to do is 100% necessary for our growth and service. We should trust him in every detail of our lives. God is the God of the details! Many say to their pastor, "Oh pastor, I only ask God to deal with the big things", but in God's sight there are no "big things" in your life, they are all small things to God, and they all matter!

The number 1 problem for us all is sin in our lives as shown in **1 John 1:5-2:2.**

"5. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto 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 the truth:

7. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

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

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

10. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

CHAPTER 2

1. My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

If the Christian does not believe they have a sin problem they have a problem with lies, and they deceive themselves. If however we confess, "*homolegeo*" (say the same thing), we agree with God in His verdict on our life, then He will forgive not only the named sin but any other sin that we are unaware of in our life. We should keep short accounts with God. Unconfessed sin in your life puts you on the shelf. God can have no fellowship with sin and cannot use us when we allow sin to remain within. **Psalm 66:18.**

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

CONFESSION OF SIN

1. Examine yourself for genuineness of motivation. [**2 Corinthians 13:5**]
2. Act on what you see [**Romans 4:7-8**]
3. Deal with any sin by confession. [**1 John 1:9, Psalm 66:18**]
4. Forget the sin which you have confessed. Do not proceed into a pattern of guilt. [**Philippians 3:13-14, Psalm 103:10-12**]
5. Resume your active spiritual walk. Avoid areas where you might be tempted by the sin which so easily besets us. [**Hebrews 12:12-13**]
6. Be reconciled to others once you have been reconciled to God. [**James 5:16**]
7. Get moving and grow up. [**2 Peter 3:17-18**]

LECTURE 9 - SPIRITUALITY AND CARNALITY.

When a person is out of fellowship with God through unconfessed sin, that person is classified by the scriptures as “carnal”. This relates to the state of mind and soul of a person who is out of fellowship with God through sin being allowed to stay in the life and hindering the work of the “Holy Spirit”.

Spirituality is defined as the Holy Spirit working in a person's life; not quenched or grieved.

Spirituality and Carnality are mutually exclusive - you are either spiritual or carnal, you cannot be partially one and the other, ie. partially spiritual. Whether you are carnal or spiritual depends upon whether you confess your sin or do not.

If you do things that God's Word says are wrong you do not advance in the Christian life, for you have hindered the Holy Spirit's work. All the Holy Spirit can do in the life of a believer who harbours sin is convict them of that sin – He can do nothing else until the sin is confessed and walked away from.

The “Carnal” Christian, now out of fellowship with God, cannot enjoy her/his old paganism, nor can he/she enjoy their new Christian life. As a result they are truly miserable. Many churches are not nice places to be as the people there are refusing to deal with sin, and are as a result miserable within and obnoxious to each other.

Exhort your people to spirituality every time you meet, for unless they are filling up with the Holy Spirit's ministries and have dealt with any sin, they will be miserable and cannot learn, worship, and advance in their service.

There is nothing as wonderful as being with “Spiritual” Christians, for they are in fellowship with God and can relax in fellowship with you. It is always joyful to be with spiritual believers, for you can fellowship with each other and the Lord Jesus in worship. Those who persist in carnality will slide further and further away from the Lord's plan for their life and often fall into worse and worse sins, and finally they will fall under the “Sin Unto Death” and leave this life before they should have. **1 John 5:16-17.**

Romans 6:8 – 13. *“Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*

We must not let our temptations overcome us, but resist them, and walk in the Spirit's power and direction.

James 4:5-10

“5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

We must reckon ourselves dead to sin. This means to consider sin a “thing of death” and flee from it like we would avoid a fatal plague stalking the streets. Rather than seeking after sin we seek after the truths of God's Word. If we fill our mind with the Word of God and seek to apply it daily, we will rejoice in the Lord, and rejoice with our brethren.

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

CARNALITY

1. The believer possesses an Old Sin Nature after salvation. (**1 John 1:8, Romans 7:14-20**)
2. The Old Sin Nature is desperately wicked. (**Jeremiah 17:9**)
3. The believer under the control of the Old Sin Nature is called carnal. (**1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Romans 7:14**).
4. The Old Sin Nature frustrates bona fide production in the life of the believer. (**Romans 7:15**)
5. The Old Sin Nature is acquired at the point of physical birth. (**Psalms 51:5**)
6. We are therefore considered spiritually dead at the point of physical birth. (**Romans 5:12**).
7. The Old Sin Nature has several facets, areas of weakness produces sins, areas of strength produces human good. It has trends towards asceticism or lasciviousness. In many cases asceticism is considered to be spirituality.
8. The Old Sin Nature is not found in the resurrection body.

We must be aware of areas of the Old Sin Nature temptation which cause us problems and avoid them, as well as recognising our areas of strength (legalism and super-spirituality) and be on our guard against any arrogance also.

SPIRITUALITY

1. One must distinguish between the salvation ministry and the post salvation ministry of the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) Salvation - The Spirit is:-
 - (1) The agent of regeneration. (**Titus 3:5**)
 - (2) Seals all believers. (**Ephesians 1:13**)
 - (3) Indwells believers. (**Romans 8:9**)
 - (4) Baptises believers into Christ. (**Ephesians 4:5**)
 - (5) Disseminates spiritual gifts. (**1 Corinthians 12:11**)
 - (b) Post Salvation Being filled with the Spirit through confession of sins. (**1 John 1:9**)
2. Spirituality and Carnality are mutually exclusive and therefore absolutes. (Of light and dark)
3. In the spiritual life IMITATION is the great issue.
 - (a) Controlled by the Holy Spirit - IMITATES GOD (**Ephesians 5:1, 1 John 3:9**)
 - (b) Controlled by the sinful nature - IMITATES UNBELIEVERS (**1 Corinthians 3:3**)
4. The spiritual believer accomplishes three general objectives in the Christian life:
 - (a) Imitates God. (**Ephesians 5:1, 1 John 3:9**)
 - (b) To glorify Christ. (**John 7:39, John 1 6:14**)
 - (c) Fulfils the law. (**Romans 8:2-4, Romans 13:8**)
5. The spiritual believer is not subject to the Mosaic law as he is under a higher law, the law of the Spirit of life. (**Romans 8:2-4, Romans 10:4, Galatians 4:18, 5:22, 26**)
6. Apart from his own free will or ignorance the spiritual believer cannot sin. (**1 John 3:9**)
7. Production which is rewarded in the Christian way of life depends on the filling of the Spirit:

Controlled by the Spirit - (Gold, silver, precious stones)

Controlled by the sinful nature - (Hay, wood, stubble)

8. Results of the filling of the Spirit

Prayer	Imitation of Christ
Witnessing	Perception of the Word
Worship	Guidance
Assurance	Helping other believers.

9. Emotion and ecstasies is not a character of being filled with the Spirit in the Church Age.

10. By baptism of the Holy Spirit we have what Jesus is:
 - Have His life
 - Share His election
 - Share His sonship
 - Share His sanctification
 - Share His reign
 - Share His destiny
 - Share His righteousness
 - Share His heirship
 - Share His priesthood

Let us reflect briefly upon and examine the case of Lot, who was saved but never got his spiritual life working to the glory of God. Genesis 12-19. As a result he lost most of his family and all of his wealth. You will not be long in the ministry before you see people who through habitual carnality lose almost everything, and have troublesome lives. These people consistently fail to deal with sins in their lives and live carnally. They are miserable and cause trouble for others, and will blame everyone for their misery except themselves.

Spirituality occurs when the Holy Spirit is in control of our life working through us in and through the light of His Word. If we walk and work under the control of the Holy Spirit we are producing "gold, silver and precious stones" in our life. Every day we have is valuable, every day we have is one we will never have again, and we need to live it to bring maximum glory to the Lord.

The problems faced by the carnal believer are put by Paul in **Romans 7:14-25**

Carnal believers often cannot be distinguished from unbelievers for the fruit of their life is terrible to behold - **1 Corinthians 3:1-3.**

The Corinthians were having trouble in the church because of sin in the lives, left unfaced and unconfessed by the members. They were not facing their sinful life habits and so they were not spiritually growing, but were remaining spiritually babies because of their habitual carnality. There were factions and infighting within the church which indicated their sin, their pride, and their immaturity. Paul has fed them with doctrinal "milk" (basic concepts only) because they were not able to tackle mature concepts ("meat") in the Christian life.

To live in sin is to live as if you are still "under condemnation" and that is not the place for the believer to be, for we are forgiven and need to confess and forsake our sins. Paul reminds them that they are no longer under condemnation as believers but are under the perfect forgiveness and justification that was won by the Lord Jesus Christ - **Romans 8:1-8.** The problem is they are not dealing with ankle-tapping sins, and so they are not advancing, and so they are not enjoying the fruit of their new spiritual life.

The Spiritual Christian is walking in the Spirit, and earning rewards of eternal or temporal value as seen in **1 Corinthians 3:10-17.** The results of spiritual life as a Christian is seen in present fruit of the Spirit, and will be enjoyed forever as eternal rewards. The results of a persistently carnal life will be seen in misery in time, and then the sin unto death, and in eternity loss of eternal rewards.

1 Corinthians 3:10-17. *"10. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

11. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13. Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15. *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*
 16. *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*
 17. *If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."*

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

REWARDS AND SALVATION

1. Rewards and Salvation are carefully separated in the Scriptures. Salvation is a free gift from God, rewards are for meritorious service while walking in the power/filling of the Holy Spirit.
2. Salvation - a free gift to the lost (**Ephesians 2:8, 9, Romans 6:23, John 4:10**). An everlasting possession (**John 3.36, John 5:24, John 6:47**)
3. Rewards - to the saved who faithfully work for the Lord. (**1 Corinthians 9:24, 25, Revelation 22:12**)-distributed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (**1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10**)
4. Rewards as Crowns:-
 - a) The incorruptible crown - for faithfulness in exercising self control. (**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**)
 - b) The crown of glory - for faithfulness in suffering. (**1 Peter 5:4**)
 - c) The crown of life - for faithfulness under trial. (**James 1:12, Revelation 2:10**)
 - d) The crown of righteousness - for faithful testimony. (**2 Timothy 4:8**)
 - e) The crown of rejoicing - for faithful service. (**1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20, Philippians 4:1**)

SIN UNTO DEATH

1. There is a sin unto death (**1 John 5:16, 17, 1 Corinthians 11:31,32**)
2. The sin unto death is the physical death of a believer, where ultimate discipline is administered to the Christian due to unconfessed sin of a serious nature.
3. Confession of sin under the concept of **1 John 1:9** is the way to forgiveness.
4. Examples of sin unto death:-
 - (a) The Corinthian Pervert - (**1 Corinthians 5**)
 - (b) The Corinthians who habitually came to the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner. (**1 Corinthians 11:27-32**)
 - (c) Moses (**Deuteronomy 32:48-52**)
 - (d) Achan (**Joshua 7:16-26**)
 - (e) Ananias and Sapphires (**Acts 5: 1-11**)
5. Whilst there is a sin unto death there is no condemnation to them in Christ Jesus - all believers. [**Romans 8: 1**]
6. The effect of the sin unto death is to reduce the time which a believer can spend on earth accumulating good of eternal worth. The gold, silver and precious stones of **1 Corinthians 3:11-15**.

If God's only purpose was to save us, He would take us to be with Him through the doorway of death immediately after salvation. God's purpose however is to bring glory and honour to the Lord Jesus through our service and ambassadorship down here.

The eternal security of the believer is not threatened by carnality, as shown in **1 Corinthians 3:15**, however the believer can miss out on opportunities to serve and worship, and so miss eternal rewards through their carnality. Carnality robs us of time we could spend bringing glory to God – indeed every minute spent in sin is a minute we are not winning eternal rewards. The foundation is laid on salvation and the believer builds on it either in the form of eternal rewards or temporal materials that are destined for the fire.

As a believer your performance is going to be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ as outlined above (also refer to and read aloud **2 Corinthians 5:9-17**) whilst the unbeliever is condemned at the Great White Throne in **Revelation 20:11-15**.

If you as a Pastor decide to go along with the people's carnality, and not challenge their sins, or live carnally yourself, then you have nothing to give your congregation except judgment and disaster. We are called to lift our flock up, not allow them to live at the low level of carnality.

Notes

LECTURE 10 - PRAYER AND SUFFERING

Prayer is the means of communication and progress in the Christian life. We can thank Him for His character and for the work of Christ on the Cross, for our position in Christ, forgiveness of sins and many other areas. Prayer is the essence of fellowship. We should ask the Lord for guidance as to what we should pray for and sit with Him in silent prayer to hear his words to our spirit. Prayer is two way communication – don't be too filled up with words to stop and listen.

We should pray for the unbelievers because of future judgment. - **John 16:8-11**. "*And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment because the prince of this world is judged*"

We need to be prepared to serve the Lord. It is often under great pressure that we learn the great lessons of life. As you grow God will give you pressure to test you and teach you to rely on His provision. Whatever the pressure situation it is an opportunity to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:6-7. "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*"

We are to humble ourselves as well as cast all our anxieties on him and allow the Lord to bear them so that He will promote us in His time. Enrolling in the college is a dangerous thing to do. When the heat is turned up will you claim God's Word? Living the Christian life is applying what you know.

Do you want to be a servant of God?

John 13:13-17.

"13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Do you want to serve Him in the ministry? The course you are studying now will sort this out. You must be prepared to walk through the fire, but if you dedicate yourself to walking in the Holy Spirit's filling you will walk triumphantly through all the enemy can throw at you.

If you do not walk in the Spirit and feed daily upon the Word of God you will not survive the course, and you will not win anything of eternal value in this life.

The famous passage from **Ephesians 6:11-19** talks about the whole armour of God and the spiritual warfare that the Christian is engaged in. The doctrines we have seen before, the "Character of God, and "The Sin Barrier", are also of great importance as far as this area of understanding is concerned. We can stand firm, secure in the knowledge of our position in Christ Jesus purchased through his precious blood.

The shield of faith is formed of the promises and doctrines of God's Word and we hold it firmly above our heads to defeat all worry. We have our good "Gospel" footwear on, and so we have stability and balance. The Gospel of God's Peace is our footwear. The offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. You will be able to use the sword by daily practise in the Word.

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

THE SWORD

1. THE SWORD of the Spirit is the Word of God (**Ephesians 6:17**).
2. The Word of God is sharper than any two edged Sword (**Hebrews 4:12**).

3. THE SWORD is the most frequently mentioned weapon in the Bible being used many times as analogies to judgment of war or for the Word of God.
4. TYPES OF SWORD - Two types of sword are mentioned in the New Testament.
 - (a) The Machaira - this was the sword with which the Romans conquered the known world. It was short, approximately half a metre (18 inches) in length. It had a point and two sharp edges and is the sword of (**Hebrews 4:12**). Compared to other swords in the ancient world it was by far the most effective weapon of its day (**John 18:10-11, Romans 8:35, Ephesians 6:1 7, Hebrews 4:1 2**).
 - (b) The Rhomphaia - occurring mainly in the book of the Revelation the rhomphaia was a large broad sword some 1 to 1 1/2 metres in length. Invented by the Thracians it had one cutting edge and was used for hacking blows (**Luke 2:35, Revelation 1:16; 19:1 5, 21**).
 - (c) Other swords in use at the time of the New Testament but not mentioned in the Scripture:
 - (i) The Dolon - a hidden sword encased in a riding whip or cane. The blade of the dolon was generally brittle and often used to break when used in combat.
 - (ii) The Akinakes - the ceremonial sword of the Persians with high ornamentation, often jewel encrusted not unlike the ceremonial British swords of state. As a weapon of war it was totally useless.
 - (iii) The Xziphos - the rapier shaped sword had a sharp point and could only be used for thrusting. It was rounded and as with the Dolon was brittle and tended to break in battle. Eventually- this sword like the aninakes became of sign of rank.
5. In the Old Testament CHEREB is used on over four hundred occasions for a sword commencing in **Genesis 3:24** with the sword wielded by the cherubim through to **Zechariah 13:7**.

THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

General Scripture **Ephesians 6:10-18**. This passage relates to the armour which the Roman soldier wore and applies its use into the spiritual realm.

USE OF THE ARMOUR

Ephesians 6:11 *"Put on the whole armour of God."* **Ephesians 6:11a**. We are instructed to "put on" (ENDUO Gk) - this means "to clothe"- it is a command by God to the Christian soldier. We are to "clothe ourselves" or to "dress ourselves".

"Whole armour" (PANOPLIA Gk) - the complete armour "of God" (THEOS Gk) true source of the armour is God.

The whole armour of God is given in **Ephesians 6:14-17**. It comprises:-

- (a) The Belt of Truth **Ephesians 6:14a**
- (b) Breastplate of Righteousness **Ephesians 6:14b**
- (c) Boots **Ephesians 6:15**
- (d) Shield **Ephesians 6:16**
- (e) Helmet of Salvation **Ephesians 6:17a**
- (f) Sword of the Spirit **Ephesians 6:7b**

PRINCIPLES:

- (i) The Roman soldier wore all his armour for his own safety and protection.
- (ii) When the Roman soldier was highly disciplined he ruled the world.
- [[iii]] When the Roman soldier became degenerate the Empire declined and fell.
- (iv) The Roman soldier was in the army 7 days a week.

SPIRITUAL ANALOGY

- (i) As Christian soldiers we wear our armour for our own safety and protection.
- (ii) When we are highly disciplined in the Christian life we are very effective in our warfare.
- (iii) If we become degenerate or apostate our Christian witness and effectiveness declines and we become casualties in the spiritual warfare.
- (iv) The Christian soldier is in the battle 7 days a week. A part time soldier never amounts to an effective soldier.

Ephesians 6:11b. *"that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil".*

"to stand" (HISTEMI (Gk) - to hold your ground. We are in a spiritual warfare and the purpose of the armour is to hold our ground against the foe.

"the wiles (METHODEIA DIA Gk) - tactics, cunning or fraud"

"of the devil (DIABOLOS Gk). We therefore have the whole armour of God to enable us to stand firm against the devil's tactics.

PRINCIPLE. By learning the tactics likely to be employed by your opponent the Christian soldier is able to go on the offensive using the sword of the Spirit - the Word of God. (v 7, 8). **1 John 4:4.**

THE ENEMY

(Ephesians 6:12) *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world against spiritual wickedness in high places. "*

"Wrestle" - "the wrestling" (HE PALE ESTIN Gk) hand to hand combat not wrestling as a sport. "not against flesh and blood" - not against other members of the human race, but against:-

- (a) PRINCIPALITIES (ARCHE Gk) Ruling demons.
- (b) POWERS (EXOUSIA Gk) - Demons with authority, officers in the demon army.
- (c) RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD (KOSMOKRATOR Gk) - world rulers, demons close to the seats of government such as the demons of **(Daniel 10:13, 20)**.
- (d) SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES (PNEU MATIKOS PONERIA Gk) - the demon army.

Quite clearly our right is against a spiritual foe. From Hebrews 2:7 we know that as human beings we are inferior to angels. Therefore in order to have success against superior forces we must have God's armour.

BE PREPARED (Ephesians 6:13)

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the day and having done all, to stand. "

PRINCIPLE Since the resurrection ascension and session of Jesus Christ the attack of Satan has moved from the line of Christ to the individual believer. Our dependence on the whole armour is imperative yet many believers reject part or all of the armour. There are many casualties as a consequence. We are again exhorted to put on the whole armour of God.

THE BELT OF TRUTH (Ephesians 6:14a, Isaiah 11:5)

"Stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth

The Roman belt was a wide girdle of leather worn around the waist from which hung the scabbard for the sword and loops for rations and equipment. The leather belt was supported by a cross shoulder strap studded with metal plates with thick leather strips hanging down to protect the lower body. The belt therefore was the basic armour on which the defence of the soldier was based.

PRINCIPLE Our basic defence is the truth contained within the Word of God. The sword of the Spirit hangs securely to the believer by means of the promises contained within it. The greater our trust in the truth of God the greater our protection against the enemy.

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Ephesians 6:14b, Isaiah 59:17)

"and having on the breastplate of righteousness".

The breastplate (THORAX Gk) was usually made of leather overlaid with metal strips. Shaped like a sleeveless coat it was in the higher ranks often covered with gold or silver. The belt held the breastplate firmly in place its primary function being to protect every vital area of the soldiers body.

PRINCIPLE The righteousness of Christ protects us. We stand in his righteousness alone. He gave us his righteousness at the cross (**2 Corinthians 5:21**). Our continued protection through his righteousness is through the filling of the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 5:18**)

THE BOOTS (Ephesians 6:15, Isaiah 52:7)

"And your feet shod, with the preparation of the gospel of peace".

The boots (CALIGAE Gk) were made of hobnail studded leather soles 15 mm (1/2") thick secured with a leather tie over the instep and round the ankles. Good footwear is essential for the soldier with infantry still being essential even in these days of sophisticated armaments.

PRINCIPLE In spiritual terms the feet are often analogised to service. The feet take one towards the enemy. The gospel of peace is a direct attack on the enemy. Peace in this context talks of reconciliation between God and man. (**Romans 1: 14-16, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20**).

THE SHIELD OF FAITH (Ephesians 6:16; 1 John 5:4)

"Above all taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of" the wicked. "

The Roman shield (THUREOS Gk) was shaped like a door being made of glued planks wrapped in canvas or calf skin, the top and bottom edges being protected by iron. The shield was the most active of the defensive armour carried by the Roman soldier. Loss of shield often meant death to the soldier.

PRINCIPLE The Christian soldier's shield is walking actively in the promises and principles set out in the Word of God. If we do not use our faith we can become spiritual casualties. Using the shield of faith we can claim -the 7,000 promises for the Christian walk including **Isaiah 41:10; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 4:4**.

THE HELMET OF SALVATION (Ephesians 6:17a; Isaiah 59:17)

"And take the Helmet of salvation.

With the exception of the standard bearer who wore a wolf's head, every Roman soldier wore a metal helmet (PERIK Gk) usually of bronze over an iron skull cap. This protected the most important part of the soldier - his head.

PRINCIPLE Before a person can be a soldier for Christ, he has to be born again. He has to wear the helmet of salvation. One of the wiles of the devil is to make the believer feel that he has lost his salvation. If a believer loses his assurance of salvation he takes his helmet of salvation off and is totally vulnerable to the attack of the foe.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT (Ephesians 6:17b)

"and the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

The sword referred to is the MACHAIRA or Roman short sword. The sword represents the basic offensive weapon for close combat. It was only effective when out of its sheath.

PRINCIPLE The sword in its sheath is potentially devastating but it is only effective when it is used to combat and defeat the enemy. We must therefore conquer using principles, promises and doctrines from the Word of God.

ETERNAL SECURITY1. POSITIONAL APPROACH (**Romans 8:38-39**)

I have perfect confidence that neither death nor life nor angels, nor principalities nor powers nor things present nor things to come nor height (God) nor depth (the devil) nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. LOGICAL APPROACH (**Romans 8:32, Romans 5**)

If as unbelievers we are enemies of God (Romans 5) once we believe in him we are his children. If he did the most for his enemies what will he do for his children? This excludes loss of salvation for he saved us while we were his enemies.

3. GOD'S HANDS APPROACH (**John 10:28, Psalm 37:24**)

Neither shall anyone seize them out of my hands. God is all powerful.

4. EXPERIENTIAL APPROACH (**2 Timothy 2:12-13**)

If we suffer we produce divine good under blessing conditions. If we (a believer) deny Christ he is going to deny us rewards. If we believe not (renounce) HE abideth FAITHFUL. You cannot do anything that can change God. Jesus cannot deny himself. The believer indwells Christ and Christ indwells the believer. Christ is still there, Christ cannot deny himself. Jesus is everywhere at the right hand of the Father, he is the God-Man, inside you, he is God.

5. THE FAMILY APPROACH (**Galatians 3:26, John 1:12**)

When you believe in Christ you are said to be born again. Born into the family of God. You cannot be unborn. You are the children of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Once a child always a child.

6. THE INHERITANCE APPROACH (**1 Peter 1:4-5**)

We have an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled which fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. We have an inheritance (perfect tense) it will always be reserved, the reservation cannot be cancelled as it is by the power of God.

7. THE SOVEREIGNTY APPROACH (**2 Peter 3:9, Jude 24**)

He is not willing that any should perish - refers to the whole human race (2 Peter 3:9) Now unto him who is able to keep you from falling. (from perishing). Once you accept Christ as Saviour it is his sovereign approach that you will not perish.

8. THE BODY APPROACH (**1 Corinthians 12:21 Colossians 1:18**)

Christ is the head, we are the members of the body. Brother foot says that as he is a foot he doesn't belong, but all believers are required to complete the body of Christ.

9. THE GREEK TENSE APPROACH (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

"For by Grace are ye saved". Perfect tense of the verb "Sozo". For by Grace have you been saved in the past so that you can go on being saved for eternity.

10. THE SEALING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT APPROACH (**2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30**)

The moment we are saved we are spiritual but as soon as we get out of fellowship we become carnal. You are either spiritual or carnal. Most churches are like the Corinthian church, they are full of Christians who are living just like pagans except on Sundays when they come to church.

SUFFERING

1. General Causes for Suffering
 - (a) Health
 - (b) Justice (imprisonment etc.)
 - (c) People (gossip, war, social conflict etc.)
 - (d) Privation (hunger, thirst)
 - (e) Weather (heat, cold, tornado, cyclone etc.)
 - (f) Mental pressure (worry, jealousy etc.)
 - (g) Isolation by society (loneliness etc.)
 - (h) Mental attitude sins (self induced misery)
 - (i) Backsliding (reaping what you sow)

2. Categories of Suffering
 - (a) Time
 - (i) UNBELIEVER (two categories)
 - (1) Violation of divine laws.
 - (2) Self induced suffering.
 - (ii) BELIEVER (see section 4)
 - (b) Eternity
 - (i) BELIEVER - no more suffering (**Revelation 21:4**)
 - (ii) UNBELIEVER - lake of fire. (**Revelation 20:12-15**)

3. Premise of Suffering
 - (a) All suffering is designed for blessing in the Christian walk. (**1 Peter 1: 7, 8, 4:14**)
 - (b) Exception is discipline. (**Hebrews 12:6**)
 - (c) Exception is removed by confession. (**1 Corinthians 11:31, 1 John 1-9**)
 - (d) Suffering follows the principle of grace. (**Romans 8:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:18**)

4. Purpose of Christian Suffering
 - (a) To receive discipline for carnality or backsliding. (**Psalm 38**)
 - (b) To glorify God. (**Job 1:8-12, Luke 15:20, 21**)
 - (c) To illustrate doctrine (**Book of Hosea**)
 - (d) To learn obedience (**Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 5:8**)
 - (e) To keep down pride (**2 Corinthians 1 2:7-10**)
 - (f) To develop faith (**1 Peter 1:7, 8**)
 - (g) To witness for Christ (**2 Corinthians 1 3:4**)
 - (h) To demonstrate the power of God. (**2 Corinthians 1 1:24-33, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**)
 - (i) To manifest the fruit of the Spirit (**2 Corinthians 4:8-11**)
 - (j) To help others who suffer. (**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**)
 - (k) From indirect action - because other believers get out of fellowship. (**Romans 14, 1Corinthians 1 2:1 2, 1 3, 1 2:26, 1 Samuel 21, 1 Chronicles 21**)

As a believer, if you are suffering and you seek God's face you can have nothing but benefit. Suffering under the control of the Holy Spirit is for refining and growth. Many of the greatest saints in the history of the church have gone through this life under great suffering.

Notes

LECTURE 11 - WITNESSING.

The Biblical method of witnessing is given in several passages in the Word of God. -

Philippians 3: 13-17. *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, and let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example".*

We are built on the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles, **Jude 3**, and not major 20th century evangelists. Walk in the Spirit, walk in the examples of the apostles. Do not copy recent men and women, but base all you do on apostolic example as you read of it in ACTS and the Epistles of the New Testament. Follow up later, in the Post-Graduate File.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21. *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

We have been given a mission of reconciliation as ambassadors for Christ and peacemakers with the peace being provided between man and God. The gospel is given in a nutshell in verse 21. We remain on earth after salvation to give the world God's viewpoint.

Romans 1:14-16. *"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

This gives the three motivations for witnessing. They are - a burden for the lost, being well prepared by the teaching of the Word, knowing God's policy towards the lost, and not being ashamed of the message, for you know it is the power to bring salvation. In order to give the gospel you should understand the sin barrier and it's solution in and through the person and work of Jesus Christ. How can we improve our evangelism? We should grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. Refer to the Study on Revival on the EBCWA CD to go further in this subject.

Read through 1 Thessalonians 2:1-20 - Paul was abused and subject to a lot of pressure. Witnessing was not easy, he was beaten and imprisoned at Philippi and fled for his life. He came to Thessalonika and started witnessing again. Witnessing is not necessarily going to result in immediate revival in your area, and it may be at a significant cost to you. You are entering into combat when you witness. Ensure you have your armour on and expect to pick up some wounds.

Notice how Paul came with no ulterior motives in verse 3. It must be a burden for the lost that is the sole desire behind witnessing, as we are God pleasers, not men pleasers, for finally we are answerable to him. Give out God's remedy to sin without deceit, guile or flattery [verse 5]. Being aware of the final destiny of the unbeliever is a fearful thing, and this should motivate us to work for the Lord. Paul visited and ministered generally only in small churches. We need to see past the small size of any audience and look at God's plan and play our part in it.

We are not greedy for earthly wealth, nor do we compromise the gospel by making it a money making exercise. Money should never be an issue in the gospel. There should never be an offering taken up during an evangelistic campaign. (Refer to the EBCWA Booklet – Revival.)

Paul set an example to us all by his tent making business, where until a church was established he would fully support himself by his own industry. He appears to have been some 20 years into his missionary work before he gave up his tent making business on a permanent basis, and only stopped working every day when he was in jail for his faith!

The church which is well established should pay its pastor, however as a pastor of a new church you should be willing to work your passage in the early part of your ministry. Paul worked until he was well into his sixties and only stopped tent making when he was unable to pay his own way. He sets us a great example of servant leadership. Paul says in verse 6 that he did not seek the glory of man but of God and that is to be our motto also.

The motivation for evangelism is desire for the souls of the unsaved. Evangelism is seen as an offering in verse 8. When the church sent them out they did so with little money thus they had to work as they travelled on their missionary journeys. The pastor must be Christ centred, Christ sufficient, be walking in the Spirit and see things from a divine viewpoint. Re-read together Acts 16 & 17 and remind yourself of apostolic practise and follow these great men.

Study each of the points in the doctrine below – reading each point and then reading aloud the Bible passages – discuss in your groups each subject and ensure everyone can see how these truths are lived out in daily life.

WITNESSING

Definition: - The giving of the gospel by a believer to an unbeliever.

1. The Command to Witness
The Lord Jesus Christ, on the Mount of Olives just before he ascended into heaven, commanded the disciples to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and throughout the world. (**Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5**)
2. Two forms of Witness
Witness of lips - (**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**)
Witness of Life - (**2 Corinthians 3:3**)
3. Minimum Knowledge standards for effective Witnessing
 - (a) Most know true issue of salvation - the barrier and its removal.
 - (b) The Gospel - Good News - Christ died for our sins. Whilst all have sinned and the wages of sin is death are true it is not good news - the good news is that Jesus Christ has solved the sin problem.
 - (c) What about the heathen who haven't heard?
Refuted by: -
 - (i) God is total Justice
 - (ii) Unlimited Atonement (**Colossians 2:14,15**)
 - (iii) God's will (**2 Peter 3:9**)
 - (iv) Man's negative will - God consciousness - Gospel hearing.
 - (d) Concept of last judgment (**Revelation 20:11-15**). Human Good v Divine Good. (**Romans 8:1, 9:30-33**)
4. Principles of Witnessing
 - (a) Holy Spirit is the sovereign executive of personal work (**John 16:8-11**). The Holy Spirit convicts of
 - (i) Sin because of unbelief.
 - (ii) Righteousness.
 - (iii) Judgment because of Satan being judged (**Matthew 25:41**)

The natural man to understand the gospel, needs the Holy Spirit to interpret it. (**1 Corinthians 2:14**)
 - (b) The Bible is the weapon of witnessing. (**1 Corinthians 1 5:3, 4**)
 - (e) Every believer is a witness as an extension of his ambassadorship. Our ability to witness depends on:
 - (i) Proper emphasis on the Gospel
 - (ii) Correct and accurate information from the Bible (**Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:1 7; 1 Corinthians 1: 1 8**)
 - (iii) Filling of the Spirit (**Acts 1:8**)
 - (iv) Assurance of Eternal Security (**Romans 8:38, 39**)

5. Analogy to witnessing is found in **Matthew 4:19** "fishers of men".
 - (a) Fishermen must have a desire to fish.
 - (b) Fishermen must be equipped to fish.
 - (c) Fishermen go where the fish are.
 - (d) Fishermen use the right bait.
 - (e) Fishermen keep out of sight.
 - (f) Fishermen must be patient.
 - (g) Fishermen will be rewarded.

- 6 . Biblical Pattern of Witnessing. (**1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**)
 - (a) Effective contact 6 (c) - visit not in vain. (v.1)
 - [b] The gospel must be given even under opposition. (v.2)
 - (c) The gospel must never be compromised or watered down - (v.3)
 - (i) No deceit - not in error 4 (c) (ii)
 - (ii) No uncleanness - filling of the Spirit. 4 (c) (iii)
 - (iii) No guile - not watered down. 4 (c) (i)
 - (d) The believer in whom the gospel is deposited is tested by God and should not be for the praise of man. 5 (e) (g) (v.4)
 - (e) Flattery should never be part of the gospel. Raising of funds should never be a part of a mass evangelisation as it is anti grace. (v.5-6)
 - (f) Whilst the gospel should not be given to get praise from men it should be given in love without cost (v9) see Romans 1: 1 4-1 6. (v.7-9)
 - (g) The gospel must be followed up (v 10) by the witness of the life - section 2 (b) as well as teaching (v 11) basic Christianity such as promises, confession of sin, doctrines and the Christian walk, so that the new believer can become spiritually self reliant and mature to enable them to witness to others. (v.10-12)

EVANGELISM

1. Knowledge of salvation is absolutely necessary to evangelise. This includes redemption, justification, reconciliation, positional truth etc.
2. Witnessing for Christ is the responsibility of every believer (**Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 4:5**) There is one thing between God and man - Jesus Christ and his work on the cross.
3. Effectiveness and clarity of witnessing depends upon the believers' understanding of the word of God including the Last Judgment judged according to their works. (**Hebrews 6:10, 1 Corinthians 3:15, Revelation 20:1 2-1 5**)
4. Witnessing is impossible except through the power of the Holy Spirit. (**John 16:1 3**)
5. The pertinent portion of the Scripture is the witnessing weapon of evangelism. Only those portions dealing with the Gospel are pertinent to unbelievers. (**Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17, 1Corinthians 1:18**)
6. Power of witnessing includes the attitude of the believer (Romans 1:14-18) You are the debtor (v14) You are ready (v 15) You are not ashamed (v 16)
7. Two areas of witnessing. Testimony of the lips. (**2 Corinthians 5:17-21**) Testimony of the life (**2Corinthians 3:3**)
8. There are rewards for witnessing (**1 Corinthians 3:11-15**) gold, silver, precious stones.
9. God's power alone saves, no matter how bad a person is. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 9:17-27, Romans 11:13-14.**

COURSE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare your application dossier and work with your local church mentor who is accredited with EBCWA as a teaching mentor to begin the full Diploma of Theology Course. Do this locally and empower the local church by it.

Do not begin this course without finding a ministry to bless the local church within while you study.

The mentor will need the following -

- [1] Full name, address, date of birth.
- [2] A recent photograph of yourself.
- [3] Two character references.
- [4] Your testimony.
- [5] Academic record including all trade, professional or other qualifications
- [6] A summary of your Christian work since you were saved.
- [7] Explain your purpose in taking this course.
- [8] Answer the questions below. Allow around 1000 words for each answer, and answer these questions as you would if you were explaining them to a new believer.

Questions

Question 1 - Explain the Character of God and why it is important.

Question 2 - Explain faith rest and explain why it is important.

Question 3 - Explain confession of sin and why that is important.

Question 4 - What is spirituality? How are you spiritual?

Question 5 - Why do believers suffer?

Read the full Prospectus below now, and begin to study the full Certificate of Theology Course teaching notes in Books 2 and 3 of the Diploma File on the CD or use the Student Work Book, Book 19, under the Seminars file on the CD.

Lectures in MP 3 format are on the web site and USB set. Listen to these.

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[Established 1992]

PROSPECTUS FOR DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY COMPRISING

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EVERY LOCAL CHURCH A BIBLE COLLEGE

**“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be
ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15**

Revised to 5 November 2019

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We uphold and believe:

In one God eternally self-existent in three persons Father Son and Holy Spirit our only Creator, Sustainer and Saviour, who alone is good and to be worshipped.

In our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death and bodily resurrection from the dead.

That all have sinned and are justly under the wrath of God. That forgiveness and redemption from the guilt, power and penalty of sins is possible only through repentance and faith in the shed blood, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as made effective to the individual by the Holy Spirit who also enables the believer to live a normal Christian life of holiness, prayer, witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the church as the community of all born again believers; the Holy Scriptures of God as divinely inspired, complete, wholly true and trustworthy, and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and living.

In the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ to gather His church to Himself, followed by a period of great tribulation upon the earth, after which the Lord Jesus Christ will return to judge the earth and set up His millennial kingdom.

In the resurrection of the saints to everlasting life with the Lord Jesus Christ and the resurrection of all unbelievers to eternal separation from God in the lake of fire.

COURSE HISTORY

The Diploma in Theology course offered by this college was developed by Dr John McEwan in New Zealand during the late 1980's. The vision was then for a theology course which could be offered in any local church to teach and train its own Christian workers, administered by the church's own eldership. The Evangelical Bible College of W A now offers these "battle tested" Theology courses for local use in all countries, under any local Board of Elders, to any church group or individuals who wishes to equip themselves for a productive Bible teaching ministry.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The full Diploma of Theology course consists of 530 lecture hours on CD or through printed notes [Books 1-13 – Diploma File]. All lectures for this Course are on the EBCWA CD and Flash-Drives. All lectures – given by Dr McEwan can be listened to on your computer using the Flash Drive. The full Diploma requires successful completion of 32 assignments broken into three subject areas which are to be completed individually. Completion of each of the three study areas leads to a certificate in that area, the three completed certificates lead to the award of the Diploma of Theology. We suggest that the Theology be completed first, then Biblical Studies, and then the Pastoral Theology studies.

It is expected that the student devote at least two hours to reading, research and assignment work for every lecture hour, especially in Pastoral Theology and Biblical Studies where there are many book studies to read and pray through.

1. **CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY** [8 assignments] Papers 111,112
2. **CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES** [16 assignments] Papers 211, 212, 213, 214
3. **CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY** [8 assignments] Papers 312, 531

The Certificate in Biblical Studies also includes study of the commentaries of Acts, 1&2 Corinthians 1 &2 Timothy, Titus, 1&2 Peter, and a firm grasp of the teaching and application of these books is crucial for understanding the subjects covered in the Certificate of Pastoral Theology. Pastoral Theology will make no sense at all unless Systematic Theology is understood, and the books of the New Testament that describe the early Church are fully understood.

ORDER OF UNDERTAKING STUDIES

It is the policy of the College that the Certificate in Theology Course, (or Biblical Studies), is to be completed first so that all students have a thorough grounding in systematic theology before studying individual books of the Bible.

The other Certificates [Biblical Studies and Pastoral Theology] are at times done in any order, but it is suggested strongly that the Certificate in Biblical Studies be completed first, as it lays the foundation for Pastoral Theology.

ACCREDITATION

We do not seek the accreditation of the princes of this world but the approval of God's people. These courses had not been accredited by any government until 2013. Some African Countries have formally accredited the courses for study. At EBCWA we had until that time maintained the separation of Church and State, as we had believed that accreditation by the State ran too high a risk for manipulation of the course content by our civil authorities. We had seen the use of "anti-discrimination" laws by governments against biblically based registered Colleges. Colleges were not able to use their Statements of faith to eliminate unbelievers and overt pagans from entering and destroying the spirit of the biblical Colleges. Why would these people want to enter a biblical college? – They are servants of the enemy and entered to destroy it. While this remains true in many Western nations, we have seen that in African States that have a more "Christian" oriented government, the process of accreditation has not led to any compromises in course content.

All local colleges are to be warned however, as evil grows in our darkening days. **1 Timothy 4:1-4, 2 Timothy 3:1-7, 4:1-5, 2 Peter 2:1-3, 3:3-9, Jude 8-13.** There is to be no compromise with the values of the increasingly pagan States we live within. We are to be respectful of the authorities of the State, **Romans 13:1-5**, but not endorse, support, or preach their often pagan values. As the days darken towards the end we are to be beacons in the dark places of this world. This course is designed to produce "light houses" not "acceptable ministers" in the devil's world. If the course is advertised in any country by local churches where local government accreditation is compromising, then its "non-accredited" status is to be emphasized. Bible believers are looking for a visible difference to the world – that is EBCWA.

MENTORS AND STUDENTS

We seek and pray for local people to make this course their own, and use it locally to train their own people for ministry. We suggest that the local Church or Fellowship Board of Elders appoint a local mentor to administer and teach the course to local students. EBCWA provides the material, but locally the mentor and Church Board are responsible for the standard of work and quality of the student's ministry application. The course must be "battle tested" in your local area and led by men and women who walk in the filling of the Holy Spirit, and understand the fierceness of the hatred of Satan for all who teach the Word of Life and Truth. **John 15:18-27.**

The reality of the Angelic Conflict will be felt in power by all who take up this course to teach local leaders. We have seen through the years the hatred of the enemy for this course and we rejoice in this, but it is exhausting at times. Let any church taking up this course count the cost and prepare prayerfully, and saturate every step with prayer in power, for all involved will be attacked as never before. **Matthew 16:24-27.** It is a dangerous thing to stand for the thorough biblical teaching of Christian leaders. Satan will hate you, and so you must prepare and protect all involved by prayer saturation, and ensure all understand the angelic conflict and have their spiritual armour on daily.

We want to encourage every Church to see themselves as a Bible College, where the local mentor is a called man or woman, who is set aside to train and equip students using the EBCWA material. The mentor is responsible for marking the assignments and ensuring that the standard of work and the standard of the student's local ministry and life brings credit to the Gospel of Jesus. If a student is working alone, they should seek for a senior pastor to mark their work to ensure it is at a high standard and suitable for ministry work. Assignments may be undertaken in a language other than English, as is agreed with the mentor.

We encourage translation of all our material into local languages, and ask translators to send a digital copy to our administrator so that they may be made for freely available to help other brethren.

MENTORS

The mentor needs to be a mature Christian with a significant understanding of theology compatible with the College. He or she does not have to take the course prior to being a marker but should be able to assent to the College Statement of Faith. [See above – “Statement of Faith”.] The mentor will receive assignments from the student, mark them and return the marked assignment to the student. EBCWA no longer grants formal certificates themselves – but the local church may grant the EBCWA Course certificates locally when students have fully met requirements contained in this manual.

THE STUDENT

The student needs to be enthusiastic and persistent in pursuing his or her maturing in the Lord. The student should have a ministry, preferably a teaching one within a group, so that the course is undertaken for the benefit of others as well as that of the student. If a prospective student is not involved in some church ministry, they should be told to seek one first, and only when they have been led by the Holy Spirit to serve in some area, should they study. No-one is to be enrolled in these courses who do not demonstrate in their lives that they are active servants of the Lord Jesus Christ in their local church. EBCWA Courses were not written to be academic qualifications, but to be training material for “active service unto death” in the local community, and eternal reward. **James 2:12-26.**

If you believe the Lord is calling you to either be a marker/ mentor or a student, or that your church wishes to become a study centre, please pray and discuss this with your local leadership, so that this project under the Lord’s guidance can proceed. May the Lord bless you as you consider this course and we pray that your local fellowship/church may become a training centre for the Lord’s People. Our sole desire is that you utilize this course to the glory of God within the local church communities. The only test for outcomes is the “fruit test”, **Matthew 7:13-23**, that all graduates are productive.

METHOD OF STUDY – GLOBAL AND GRATIS

We make this course material and all associated study material on the EBCWA CD and website available world wide and free of charge. The Diploma course can be taken in one of two ways – In a group in a Church Setting, or Individually by direct contact with the mentor selected. Assignments must be marked thoroughly and the student given good feedback, for the objective of this course is to thoroughly equip people for local ministry. Let the mentor encourage all students to study usefully, and apply all things practically in the local church, not just academically. **2 Timothy 2:1-7, 14-16, 4:1-5.**

IN A CHURCH SETTING

For those who do not have ready access to computers and email there is an opportunity to use the material in printed form to make your own church, or home group, a Church building Bible College. Here the mentor/markers of the course teach in a face to face environment. The leaders are also responsible for marking the assignments and giving encouragement to advance down the “path of study and teach”. All who study must be teaching somewhere – in a home group, a Sunday School, or youth group, or evangelizing on the street corner.

In line with our policy, no charge is to be made for studying the course, although local costs may be asked for from students or supporters, but always graciously, never by demand. None must be stopped studying for lack of funds. Make prayer the foundation of the course, and if funds are required, pray for them, and move forward into God’s provision. In grace the Lord has blessed this course, and in grace alone it will be blessed. Read the three Appendices to this booklet, as they will make further things clear about how to establish a biblically sound college to study this material and graduate useful and practical pastors who bring glory to the Lord, not themselves.

TRANSLATIONS

The Lord may encourage bilingual Christians to translate the course books into another language. If that is done on a computer it may be possible to include it on a future CD or USB which would benefit others who do not speak English. It would be expected that any translation would be undertaken free of charge and made available to EBCWA on the basis of it being free of copyright. Please send a file in digital form to the EBCWA administrator and we will distribute it freely to the glory of the Lord, and your eternal reward, or you simply make it widely available through your own networks.

OUR OBJECTIVES

The college has three objectives in offering the course.

1. To produce Christian workers who minister in their own local church. The local church is the base of all Christian growth outreach and endeavor. All students must continue attendance and ministry in their local church.
2. To produce students who know and apply the Word of God into their lives. Christian growth comes as the believer, under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, applies the truth of God's word to their daily life experience.
3. To produce pastoral students who are thoroughly grounded in the skills needed for a Bible based ministry. These skills would include Evangelism of the lost, Systematic teaching of the saved and Biblical counseling and encouragement of the sick, grieving and depressed with the true comfort that comes from God's Word alone, not the philosophies of men.

ELIGIBILITY

The course is open to all who love the Lord Jesus Christ and who can affirm the statement of faith (Page 1) as their own.

This is a demanding course for students who desire to prepare for Christian ministry and as such it demands the character traits that are required by all who would be faithful ministers of Jesus their Lord and Master.

Tenacity [**Luke 9:62**] - you must have perseverance to keep studying and applying the lessons of God's word through all of the crises that will arise during the course.

Honesty [**2 Peter 3:18, Philippians 3:13**] - you must be teachable, prepared to learn, change, and grow.

Commitment [**Philippians 3:13-21**] - you must be ready to advance to maturity and be prepared to make personal sacrifices.

Holiness [**James 1:19-27**] - you must be determined to work and walk worthy of your calling. This will involve making decision daily to deal with sin in your life, that you might become a clean vessel for the Lord's work.

ENROLMENT APPLICATION

It is suggested that each student be quite formally "enrolled" in the local course and followed through their study process by their mentor in the church, who keeps records of their study and encourages and exhorts as required.

Step 1. STUDY IN DETAIL THE INTRODUCTORY BOOKLET – BOOK 1 (Diploma File) ON YOUR EBCWA CD, or from the website/flash drive – and only then decide whether this course is truly for you and your work for the Lord. We require hard Holy Spirit filled work – not pretence. Be ready like Paul to perspire in the work – the only "sweat-less" ministries are fake ones!

Step 2. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare your application dossier and send to your Study Centre Mentor, or Local Pastor if they are the marker/mentor

- [1] Full name, address, and date of birth.
- [2] Two character references.
- [3] Your testimony.
- [4] Academic record including all trade, professional or other qualifications.
- [5] A summary of your Christian work since you were saved.
- [6] Explain your purpose in taking this course.
- [7] Do you see the possibility of teaching this course locally as a mentor later?
- [8] Answer the questions below from your study of Book 1 from the CD – “Diploma Course” file. The answers can be in a paragraph or two rather than a full assignment. Mentor is to assess from these answers the readiness of the student to begin the full course, and if they are not ready, advise them on a short preparatory course to help them be ready later.

Question 1 - Explain the Character of God and why it is important.

Question 2 - Explain the double concept of “faith and resting in the Lord” and explain why it is important.

Question 3 - Explain confession of sin and why that is important.

Question 4 - What is spirituality? How are you spiritual?

Question 5 - Why do believers suffer?

OPERATION OF THE COURSE

The Certificate in Theology which comprises three volumes [Books 1-3 on CD EBCWA – Diploma File] represents about 80 hours of formal lectures and is the first stage of the Diploma/Degree Course. Lecture notes are included in the course notes on the CD. Lectures by Dr McEwan are included in MP 3 format on the CD and website. The course involves the study of the three books and the study of the content of the lectures, but also comprises the completion of 8 assignments in the 2 subject papers. The questions from which the essay topics are to be chosen are set out below.

It is expected that students devote approximately two hours to reading, research and assignment work for every hour of formal lectures every week. If the lectures are not being given by the mentor-teacher then the student is to read the lecture notes in the books provided on the CD and study them as if they themselves are giving the lecture. Our objective is that one day soon each student will be giving these lectures to others! We do not want to produce professional students, but passionate communicators of the Word - helping others to complete the course

The time to complete the first Certificate should be 6 months and no greater than 12 months.

The Certificate of Theology represents 25% of the full Diploma course.

METHOD OF STUDY

Suggested intensive format: Study four lectures per week with one assignment every three weeks. The Certificate course would then be completed within six months.

All assignments are to be undertaken in a local language if mutually acceptable to the student and mentor. A suggested programme is attached below.

COSTS

Our policy is that finance should not be a barrier to learning God's Word. The course is therefore described as "Global and Gratis". For the church based course arrangements will need to be made using the EBCWA CD/FLASHDRIVE for the provision of a set of study books (printed from the CD/flash-drive) for each student. If this can be funded by a local person, or people by grace giving, that would be wonderful, but students may be asked to cover costs of printing, and government accreditation costs if relevant, but either way they are encouraged to value the cost of the material.

Whilst the course materials are provided on the CD and through the Web free in order to assist in the operations of the local Colleges, local offerings by the Lord's people will assist in the printing of material. Giving to the Lord's work is always the great privilege of the believer, and all money spent on this training material and the training of young believers will greatly bless the local churches. All that we pour out to assist others comes back in time and eternity to bless us.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments required for each subject are listed in the pages following. All sources consulted during research should be properly acknowledged in a bibliography. Locally accepted rules should apply in the marking of assignments but guidance is given below. This is the Lord's work we are preparing students for, and so the highest standards are required. You do a student no favour if you pass them on an inferior assignment – God's Work demands our best.

WARNING - The control of the Internet will slip into the enemy's control in coming years, but it may be safe to be used until the point that Christian groups are excluded from it, or targeted for persecution through their posting's content. Be prayerful about Internet use – for all that is posted there is permanently there, and if you are targeted by evil later those who wish to, can draw all material up that has ever been sent or loaded up by you. Be ready to pay the price!

Internet resources. As the internet advances on-line libraries are increasingly available free of charge, but those who control the NET will of course be able to identify every resource you have used from your NET address. If still safe to use the Net, Students should discover all internet based books, articles and papers that may be useful, but carefully check their source and reliability. The enemy delights in providing material that will mislead, distort truth, and lead people astray. The mentor must check out new sites for their reliability before encouraging students to use them.

Mentors, please work together with the students to ensure all things studied lift up the name and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Google Scholar" is the accepted site, but will contain pagan material, and discernment is required, (and should be taught by the course). Remember Wikipedia is a pagan controlled search engine and all Christian material is "edited".

Again Remember – the INTERNET is monitored – and all that is there is permanent – and it will be used against believers in the last days by the enemy of truth. It will become the main control tool of the Western Dictator of the future Tribulation Period. All use of the Internet is to be prayerfully conducted and you must be ready to disconnect for your own safety at some future point. Until then post everything Biblical you can. Refer to the Appendices to this book.

1. GLOBAL AND GRATIS CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGY

The student would require a Bible and Moses P (Ed), "Bible Topic Books" (All available on CD - EBCWA)

One of the following texts would be an advantage but is not critical (available freely on the web in pdf format). Other good Theology texts will be helpful to read, but be discerning about the author's theological position.

Chafer L and Walvoord J, "Fifty Two Major Bible Themes".

Ryrie C, "Basic Theology".

PAPER 111 – SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY PART I - BOOK 2 ON EBCWA- CD

SCOPE - God's Word, God's Nature, Christology, Pneumatology, Dispensations and Covenants, Angelology, Anthropology.

ASSESSMENT

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments or 2 x 5000 word assignments. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the church. Remember the purpose is practical not purely academic.

Select your four topics from the following.

1. What is meant by inspiration and revelation?
2. Why is inerrancy important?
3. The Trinity is a key concept. Explain the doctrine.
4. Knowledge of the character of God is the basis of a believer's stability. Outline the facets of the character of God.
5. What is the hypostatic union? Why is it important?
6. Is the physical bodily resurrection of the Lord an optional thing?
7. The Holy Spirit's work in the believer's life is the basis of their spiritual life. Discuss what spirituality is in relation to this.
8. How has the Holy Spirit's ministry changed through the ages?
9. Is it important to distinguish between dispensations and covenants?
10. Satan is limited and doomed and knows it. What relevance does this have in his attitude towards believers?
11. What is demon possession? Can a believer be possessed?
12. Adam's fall sets the stage for all the major doctrines of the Bible to be unfolded. Discuss with reference to the importance of the historicity of the Genesis narrative.

PAPER 112 – SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY PART 2 – BOOK 3 ON EBCWA - CD

SCOPE - Hamartiology, Soteriology, Sanctification, Election, Ecclesiology, Eschatology.

ASSESSMENT

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments or 2 x 5000 word assignments. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the local church or youth/home group.

1. What is sin? How is it that man sins?
2. Relate the doctrine of imputation to the sin of man and its solution.
3. Salvation is all God's work. Discuss.
4. How is the believer sanctified?
5. Answer the Philippian jailer's question, and explain the doctrines involved.
6. Can free will and election be reconciled this side of eternity?
7. What is the Church and what is its earthly purpose?
8. What is worship? Develop some principles of worship and note how they can be applied to the local church.
9. Should the Sabbath be kept, why / why not?
10. What place does Israel have yet in the plan of God?
11. What is the believer's hope when facing the political turmoil of the months and years ahead?
12. Student's own choice (requires approval of topic BY MENTOR).

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1. Grading allows the marker to give students feedback on how they are performing in relation to the expectations of the College. The grades should always challenge students to greater achievement so that they might serve their Lord better when they apply their study in the ministry to which they are called.

2. Grades of A, B, C, D will be awarded. F is a failure

3. Criteria taken into consideration during assessment:

[a] Presentation (relative weighting about 20%)

Structure (e.g. introduction conclusion headings, etc)

Logical Sequencing

Clarity of expression

[b] Content (relative weighting about 80%)

Doctrinal accuracy and depth

Logical Scriptural Argument

Achievement of purpose (e.g. teaching plan, sermon, etc)

Appropriate illustrations and/or applications

Use of resources, quotes, bibliography

GRADES AWARDED

A - Indicates that the student has mastered the subject understanding the topic, its various interpretive expressions, the problems associated with it, as well as seeing its application to life. This knowledge has been clear, concise and well presented.

B - Indicates a good grasp of the subject, understanding the issues involved, but without the detailed mastery of an "A" grade.

C - Indicates that the student has grasped the basic facts or concepts, but has not fully seen their depth implications or variations. Persistent "C" grades mean a student could not move on to degree study.

D - Indicates that the student has failed to grasp key concepts in the subject or that the case put for their view lacked logic or organisation. Any work receiving a "D" grade must be repeated, as it does not receive credits towards graduation.

F - Indicates that the student has not understood the subject nor put forward an adequate presentation. An "F" grade requires a conference with the markers to discuss the student's performance.

PROVISION OF THE CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

On completion of the course a Certificate in Theology can be issued by the Local Church Board – provided that:

1. The requirements for assignments have been completed successfully.
2. Written confirmation is given by the student confirming that they have thoroughly studied all of the Introductory Booklet and Volumes 1 and 2 of the Diploma in Theology [Books 1-3 inclusive on EBCWA CD] including the Bible texts.

In this regard it is good for all students to keep their own note book as they go through the texts.

EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 PROTOTYPE PROGRAMME FOR CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

WEEK	DATE	ACTIVITY
1		Review Lectures 1 to 6 of Introductory Notes
2		Review Lectures 7 to 11 of Introductory Notes
3		Study in depth from Theology 111 Lessons 1 to 5
4		Lessons 6-10
5		Undertake assignment 1 from Theology 111 list
6		Lessons 11-15
7		Lessons 16-19
8		Undertake assignment 2 from Theology 111 list
9		Lessons 20-24
10		Lessons 25-29
11		Undertake assignment 3 from Theology 111 list
12		Lessons 30-34
13		Lessons 35-38
14		Undertake assignment 4 from Theology 111 list
15		Study in depth from Theology 112 Lessons 39-43
16		Lessons 44-48
17		Undertake assignment 1 from Theology 112 list
18		Lessons 49-52
19		Lessons 53-58
20		Undertake assignment 2 from Theology 112 list
21		Lessons 59-64
22		Lessons 65-68
23		Undertake assignment 3 from Theology 112 list
24		Lessons 69-74
25		Lessons 75-79
26		Undertake assignment 4 from Theology 112 list

Note: In assignments also consult other books and the Omnibus Bible Topic Book [Book 21 on EBCWA – CD File] for additional material.

2. **CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES**

The Certificate in Biblical Studies comprises eight volumes of the Diploma Course [Books 4, 5 and 8-13 on EBCWA –CD]. It represents about 360 hours of lectures. The course also comprises the completion of 16 assignments of 2000 words each. The questions involved are set out below.

The time to complete the Certificate in Biblical Studies should be 12-18 months and no greater than 2 years.

TEXT BOOKS

The following text books are required for this certificate and are not provided by EBCWA. In the CD 2012-2019 there are three icons that contain several books each on helpful topics in Pastoral Theology – they are “Christian Counselling”, and “Christian Living”, and especially on New and Old Testament Introduction in the Diploma File - “Post-graduate Studies”. There are also numerous internet sites that will provide additional data, but each must be audited carefully to ensure it is biblically sound and godly. These books may be downloaded from the Internet in digital form also for minor cost. We do not encourage pirating.

Jensen I, "Jensen's Survey of the New Testament", Moody Press.

Jensen I, "Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament", Moody Press.

The Certificate represents 50% of the full Diploma course.

PAPER 211 - NEW TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION**SCOPE:**

Overview of New Testament books.

TEXTS

Jensen I, "Jensen's Survey of the New Testament".

ASSESSMENT

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the local church or youth/home group. Remember at all times that the course is designed to train people to teach, and so assignment formats are to be flexible, and teaching notes are always acceptable. The assignment may be read by the mentor, or it may be taught and the mentor/marker assesses on the basis of the teaching.

Select one chapter from a book in EACH of the following four New Testament divisions and prepare an expositional message and/or exegetical teaching plan. [See layout in any of the New Testament commentaries.]

1. Synoptic Gospels and Acts
2. John's Gospel, John's letters and Revelation
3. Paul's letters
4. Hebrews and General Epistles

Each assignment must take into account the context of the book, the author, local situation place in the book, Greek words used as well as the standard expositional points of interpretation and practical application to today's Christian.

PAPER 212 - OLD TESTAMENT INTRODUCTION**SCOPE:**

Overview of Old Testament books.

TEXTS

Jensen L "Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament".

ASSESSMENT

Require 4 x 2000 word assignments. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the local church or youth/home group.

Select one chapter from a book in EACH of the following four Old Testament divisions and prepare an expositional message and/or exegetical teaching plan.

1. The Pentateuch
2. The Historical Books

3. Psalms or Proverbs
4. The Prophets

Each assignment must take into account the context of the book in the history of Israel, the author, local situation, place in the book, Hebrew words used as well as the standard expositional points of interpretation and practical application to today's Christian. [See layout in book of Daniel on CD as a guide.]

PAPER 213 - NEW TESTAMENT BOOK STUDIES

SCOPE: Detailed exposition of New Testament books.

TEXTS

No specific text other than the Commentaries on the EBCWA CD or website.

ASSESSMENT

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments OR 2 x 5000+ word assignments. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the local church or youth/home group.

Provide EITHER four (x 2000+ words) OR two (x 5000+ words) essays on books from the New Testament and prepare a detailed teaching plan suitable for a Church or Bible Class. Include your own introduction to the books as a preface to the teaching plan. Remember the purpose of this Diploma Course is that you might teach others!

PAPER 214 - OLD TESTAMENT BOOK STUDIES

SCOPE: Detailed exposition of Old Testament books.

TEXTS: No specific text other than the Commentaries on the EBCWA CD or website.

ASSESSMENT

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments OR 2 x 5000+ word assignments

Provide EITHER four (x 2000+ words) OR two (x 5000+ words) essays on books from the Old Testament and prepare a detailed teaching plan suitable for a Church or Bible Class. Include your own introduction to the books as a preface to the teaching plan.

PROVISION OF THE CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

On completion of the course a Certificate in Biblical Studies will be issued by the EBCWA provided

1. The requirements for assignments have been completed successfully
2. Written confirmation is given by the student confirming that they have thoroughly studied all of the volumes outlined above including the Bible texts. In this regard it is good to keep your own note book as you go through the texts.

3. GLOBAL AND GRATIS CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY

The concept of this project is a learning course leading to a Certificate in Pastoral Theology that should be virtually free of charge (costs may be made for printing locally). This Certificate course is based on the content of our EBCWA – CD 2012-2020 and comprises in depth study of the following seventeen books. These may have been used for the Certificate in Biblical Studies already.

BOOK NO	TITLE	BOOK NO	TITLE	BOOK NO	TITLE
07	Pastoral Theology	75-4	Acts Volume 4	86	2 Timothy
75-1	Acts Volume 1	77	1 Corinthians	87	Titus
75-2	Acts Volume 2	78	2 Corinthians	91	1 Peter
75-3	Acts Volume 3	85	1 Timothy	92	2 Peter
06	Church History	112	Christian Leadership	113	Revival Ministers Handbook
		115	Other Religions	114	

ACCESS TO THE PASTORAL THEOLOGY COURSE

The College has decided that access to the Pastoral Theology Course will be dependent on the student already having completed the Certificate in Theology Course, although we recommend that the Certificate in Biblical Studies also be completed before starting this present certificate also, thus the only requirement for the student to proceed is that a mentor is available to partner the student. This course may be taught by a teacher-mentor to a class in the local church using the above fifteen books, or may be studied by the student with access to the books in printed or digital form.

OPERATION OF THE COURSE

The Certificate in Pastoral Theology which comprises study of 17 books from EBCWA CD 2012-2019 outlined above.

It is expected that students devote time to additional reading and research if other appropriate material is available by library or internet sources.

The student shall provide the mentor with a programme to enable the Certificate in Pastoral Theology to be completed within 6-12 months.

To respect the effort being given by mentors it is the responsibility of the student to complete the course on time. The course must be completed in twelve months. Reading of books 112-115 may be follow up to the course.

The Certificate represents approximately 25% of the full Diploma course and lays a firm foundation for further study.

PAPER 311 - PASTORAL THEOLOGY - Book 7 and 112, 113, 114, 115

SCOPE

Leadership, church administration, pastoral duties.

ASSESSMENT

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the local church or youth/home group.

Read set texts in detail, research, and then write biblically based responses, in each answer referring to most of the nine course books with biblical examples of each principle you raise or explain.

Select four topics.

1. Discuss the biblical qualities required for pastoral leadership. Develop a weekly timetable for ministry work that provides for family, study, visitation, teaching and meetings.
2. What should be done by you before and during your takeover of a new church? Develop a list of priorities for action in the weeks and months after the takeover.
3. Develop a visitational plan for the church which mobilises the members and reaches the lost/needful without violating biblical principles.
4. Discuss the biblical basis for the congregational meeting and develop a set of principles for operation, so as to avoid any disruption and keep Holy Spirit control.
5. What are the deacons, elders and other officers to do in the church? How do you as pastor co-ordinate this?
6. What personnel management techniques could be followed to ease tensions and facilitate function within church administration?
7. What is a woman to do in the church? Discuss the role of women in the New Testament church and in your congregation.
8. Develop a training plan for your deacons to assist them in their biblical function.
9. What factors and principles should be covered in the Constitution, and why?
10. What is involved in worship? Develop a worship service format which meets these, and give an example you have tried, with an assessment of its value from the congregation.
11. What do you consider as important in a Christian wedding? Develop a list of principles with biblical justifications for each.
12. The Baptismal Service and the Lord's Supper are important teaching services. Discuss.
13. Student's own choice (requires approval of topic by mentor-pastor).

PAPER 511 - CHURCH HISTORY SURVEY - Book 6

SCOPE - Church history from Pentecost (32AD) to the present day.

TEXT BOOKS

The following text books are required for this certificate and are not provided by EBCWA

A good Church History book.

Some good texts include -

“Christianity through the Centuries”, by Earle Cairns

“History of Christianity: A Lion Handbook”

Shelley B, "Church History in Plain Language"

On the CD 2012-2020 there is a “Church Age History and Study Books” icon – on which are many good written studies that will take the student without access to any printed books through all of church history and provide challenging reading to go with the lecture notes. In the CD 2012-2020 there are also three icons/files that contain several books each on helpful topics in Pastoral Theology – they are “Christian Counselling”, and “Christian Living”, and “Post-Grad Studies”.

ASSESSMENT

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the local church or youth/home group.

Select four topics.

1. Prepare a timeline outlining the history of the church age, with key dates, people and events. Make it in at least five sections and suitable for Sunday school or Bible Class.
2. Who were the key apologists and what was their message to the Roman Empire?
3. Was the blood of the martyrs the seed of the Church?
4. What was the impact of Constantine's Christianity on the spiritual state of the Church?
5. Describe the growth of Sacerdotalism in the early church.
6. What was the impact of the Celtic missionaries?
7. The Crusaders' legacy. Was it godly or devilish?
8. Who were the Albigenes and Waldensians? What did they stand for?
9. Was Luther just an anti-Semitic bourgeois? Discuss his later life.
10. Discuss Calvin's work in Geneva, or that of Knox in Scotland.
11. Describe the life, work and emphasis of one of the great revivalists of the 18th or 19th century.
12. Summarize the growth of missions in the 19th century.
13. Student's own choice (requires approval of topic by mentor/elder/pastor).

PROVISION OF THE CERTIFICATE IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY

On completion of the course a Certificate in Pastoral Theology can be issued by the local Church Board provided

1. The requirements for assignments have been completed successfully
2. Written confirmation is given by the student confirming that they have thoroughly studied all of the volumes outlined above including the Bible texts.

In this regard it is good for all students to keep their own note book as they go through the texts

DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

On completion of the three certificates outlined above the Diploma in Theology may be issued by the local Church Board.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The college contact regarding the college or course is Dr Peter Moses Chairman EBCWA

Enquiries should be emailed to: pjmoses@bigpond.com.au or Dr McEwan john.mcewan@xtra.co.nz
Home page – www.ebcwa.org.au also www.http://ebcwa.free.org.nz

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FURTHER STUDY TO BTH LEVEL AND BEYOND

Those wishing to go beyond the Diploma of Theology level of study need to have two assets in order to advance with confidence and assurance that you will not bring disgrace upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first is a group of dedicated and well proven leaders/teachers/mentors for students. These men and women must be tried and tested leaders of the Lord's People and all have qualifications at least at the Diploma Level themselves as they start this process. If they have Diploma only they should undertake the Bachelor level study first and all graduate before they begin to teach the first batch of students. They can do this through a marker-mentor who is qualified to at least Master of Theology level from another Seminary. Their assignments must be assessed to ensure they are thinking and operating well above the basic level of the Diploma Course.

The second asset required is a good library for students to have access to at least 1000-5000 books for study at an advanced level. This may be provided by means of the internet or computer CD/DVD however in today's world. One CD may contain as many as 400 text books today, and a compressed DVD may contain 1000 texts. Many of the best texts from previous generations are now available through the internet by sites like <e-sword.com> or on compressed CD/DVD. Students today may download whole libraries onto their computer hard drive, so the demand for an external library is disappearing fast, but governments accrediting courses may still require an external stand alone library. If you are accrediting a course with a local government, please ensure you have what they require.

Our belief is that anything that enables a student of the Word to stand alone, without having to "turn up" to a library for study is best, as when persecution begins in each country in earnest, as we expect it will, the teachers of the Word will need to operate alone. All fixed libraries of books will be seized or burned, but if each person has a computer and on it are 5000 books, then they are a traveling seminary! With the provision of used computers into Africa especially through charities in the USA this dream of having your own 5000 book library is close to reality for many and the books may be free or very close to it. Have all material on one safe and independent Computer – unable to be hacked – and back it up so that it's content is secure. The Internet may be used now – but only for a limited time by Bible believing believers.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (BTH) COURSE

Building upon the good foundation of the Diploma of Theology Course the BTH format suggested is as follows. We suggest that it comprise the foundation level of Eight (8) Papers of the Diploma Theology, and then an additional Sixteen (16) papers, to make a Bachelor of Theology with 24 Papers. This places it on a par with all recognized Bachelor's Level degrees in the British University system of the English speaking world.

The papers involved build upon the Diploma in the three subject/faculty areas, but add in another three faculty/subject areas that may be studied, depending upon the expertise of the lecturers/mentors the College has available locally, and also the written and internet available written, oral and visual aids available. Remember that through the "U-Tube" videos on line many subjects can be studied with world leaders in their field, and all "on-line" biblically sound resources should be utilized while they can be with safety.

All papers have a three digit number to identify them – the first number identifies the faculty/subject area, the second identifies the level of study (1=basic, 2=level 2, 3=level 3 advanced), and the third number identifies the specific paper subject at the level identified.

The following papers are identified as being potentially able to be woven into the final sixteen papers building to the BTH. There must be at least eight level two papers, and at least six level three papers to complete the required 24 papers for the award of the BTH degree. The final two papers above this set requirement can be level 2 or level 3 papers.

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 1 - of SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (Paper Subject titles)

Paper 111	Basic Theology	completed in Dip Theology
Paper 112	Basic Theology	completed in Dip Theology

Paper 121	Fundamentalism – the doctrines explained
Paper 122	Calvinism-Arminianism explained
Paper 131	Special Topics as selected and approved
Paper 132	Special Topics as selected and approved
Paper 133	Special Topics

Faculty/Subject Area – Number 2 – of BIBLICAL STUDIES

Paper 211	New Testament Introduction	completed in Dip Theology
Paper 212	Old Testament Introduction	completed in Dip Theology
Paper 213	New Testament Book Studies	completed in Dip Theology
Paper 214	Old Testament Book Studies	completed in Dip Theology
Paper 221	Biblical Theology of the Gospels	
Paper 223	Biblical Theology of the Letters of the NT	
Paper 222	Biblical Theology of the Mosaic Law	
Paper 224	Biblical Theology of the “Writings”	
Paper 231	Special topic in the theology of the New Testament	
Paper 233	Special topic in the theology of the New Testament	
Paper 232	Special topic in the theology of the Old Testament	
Paper 234	Special topic in the theology of the Old Testament	

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 3 – PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Paper 311	Pastoral Theology Introduction	completed in Dip Theology
Paper 312	Psychology-counselling Introduction	
Paper 313	Accounting for Non-profit Organizations	
Paper 314	Human Resources Introduction	
Paper 321	Evangelism	
Paper 322	Biblical Counselling - Stage 2	
Paper 323	Biblical Management Principles	
Paper 324	Special topic in administration	
Paper 331	Special topic in Evangelism	
Paper 332	Special topics in Counselling - Stage 3	

Paper 333	Special topic in biblical management
Paper 334	Special topic in the theology of Administration/Management
Paper 335	Special Topic – student selection

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 4 – PHILOSOPHY/APOLOGETICS

Paper 421	Philosophy Introduction
Paper 422	Ethics Introduction
Paper 423	Apologetics Introduction
Paper 431	Special Topic in Ethics
Paper 432	Special Topic in Apologetics

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 5 – CHURCH HISTORY

Paper 511	Church History Survey	completed in Dip Theology
Paper 512	The Early Church	
Paper 513	Israel's History to the destruction of the First Temple	
Paper 521	The Medieval Church	
Paper 522	The Reformation	
Paper 523	The Evangelical Revival and Missions	
Paper 524	Israel's history 535 BC to 139 AD	
Paper 531	Special Topic in Church History	
Paper 532	Special Topic in Church History	
Paper 533	Special Topic in Israel's History	
Paper 534	Special Topic – Archaeology Excavation – a month on site in Israel working on a recognized excavation of a biblical site. (Annual Opportunities through Biblical Archaeological Review.)	

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 6 – BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

Paper 611	New Testament Greek – Stage 1
Paper 612	Biblical Hebrew – Stage 1
Paper 621	Greek - Stage 2
Paper 622	Hebrew - Stage 2
Paper 631	Greek - Stage 3
Paper 632	Hebrew – Stage 3

STUDY LEVELS FOR BTH DEGREE

Level 1 Papers are at the basic introductory level that you are familiar with the Diploma of Theology papers. Study at this level requires a good overall grasp of the subject area with clear expression in essays and assignments of the subject covered.

Level 2 Papers are in more advanced and specialized areas, and require a more thorough study of the more specific area covered. The criteria here center in the need to be able to explain the concept/material clearly in the assignments and gather all the facts that are relevant.

Level 3 Papers are looking for a clear ability to teach the subject to others, covering all the material required for mastery of the topic. By this stage the student is able to teach the subject matter clearly and thoroughly. Clear thinking, logical processing and strong presentation of ideas are required.

The requirement for each subject paper remains the same for each paper in the degree level as in the Diploma level, with four completed assignments (or two dissertation type essays) required for each paper.

ASSESSMENT FOR EACH ADVANCED PAPER

Required: 4 x 2000+ word assignments or 2 x 5000 word assignments on the approved topics below. These may be in essay format, or as preaching notes from which the student could teach the subject to the church. Remember the purpose is practical not purely academic and so presentation of material to a group may be required at times.

For the language papers approved on-line three stage courses are to be utilized and marked in accordance with the criteria for them. Course are to be audited by mentors to ensure that by stage three of the language course the student is able to read Biblical Greek and Hebrew/Aramaic well enough to do their biblical devotions in the languages.

Papers can be taught by lecture format if the teacher-mentor is able to do so, or simply be run by seminar and self study. Texts that are available locally or through the Internet must be set for the students and other readings approved so that the student can master the material and produce the assignments. Add in topics that have some depth to them as is appropriate locally given your own expertise and library-study resources.

Remember the BTH degree is designed to make the pastor think deeply, and so there is no final and approved list of subjects – for all that encourages thought and good healthy debate is helpful to clarify the Pastor's thinking and make him/her fit to lead. Each local College offering the degree is to develop new courses and pilot them and when they are acceptable share them with the EBCWA network through the internet while it is safe to do so. Let each encourage and provide good spiritual food for others.

QUESTIONS FOR EACH PAPERFaculty/Subject Area - Number 1 - of SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Paper 121 Fundamentalism – the doctrines explained

Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering each of the two questions below.

1. What are the Fundamentals, and why do you believe they are “fundamental” to the Christian Faith. Explain.
2. Discuss the history of the Fundamentalist Debate – and what you see as relevant for your leadership today in your own country and church. What lessons must we learn from this debate.

Paper 122 Calvinism-Arminianism explained

Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering each of the two questions below.

1. What are the beliefs of the two schools relating to Soteriology. Explain their positions and where any errors crop up in their arguments.
2. Discuss the position of your own church on the matter of salvation and sanctification. What lessons must we learn from this historical debate, as it relates to our present church belief and practice.

Paper 131 Special Topics as selected and approved

Paper 132 Special Topics as selected and approved

Paper 133 Special Topics

Two 5000 word or Four 2000 words assignments are to be produced for each paper, answering two or four specific theological questions that student and mentor may select.

They must be set out as lectures/presentations that the student could give them to an educated group and argue his/her case well.

Set topics that test the student and require them to research widely, but remember to be sure you have the resources to help them, or they have internet access.

Faculty/Subject Area – Number 2 – of BIBLICAL STUDIES

Paper 221 Biblical Theology of the Gospels

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. Discuss the doctrine of resurrection/eternal life from the Gospel accounts.
2. Jesus teaching is “kingdom policy” – discuss the Sermon on the Mount as Jesus’ Law.
3. Jesus virgin birth matters – discuss.
4. The Gospel in shoe leather is ethics and theology in their right place. Discuss.
5. The miracles matter – if they are falsehoods, then so is everything else. Discuss.
6. He came to die on the Cross – this was no accident. Discuss.

Paper 223 Biblical Theology of the Letters of the NT

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. Discuss Paul's concept of man in his letters. Is it Jewish or Greek in origin?
2. Contrast the Pauline and Jewish Letters – is there a significant difference?
3. Paul develops the first creeds in his letters. Discuss.
4. Discuss the theological themes of one of Paul's Letters.
5. Does the Church lose its primitive simplicity after the Jerusalem Conference?
6. What is the Jewish Emphasis of James, Jude or Peter?

Paper 222 Biblical Theology of the Mosaic Law

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. Contrast Moses revelation with the Code of Hammurabi, or another ancient Law Code.
2. Is the Mosaic Law treating women as “unclean” and second class?
3. Discuss the Criminal Code and its benefits over our prisons. Why would we find it hard to apply this?
4. “Moses is an invention of Ezra!” Discuss this falsehood and rebut it.

Paper 224 Biblical Theology of the “Writings” and the “Prophets”

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. Discuss the use of the Psalms in worship.
2. Where does Ecclesiastes fit? What is its purpose?
3. Discuss the theological points made by the oldest book - Job.
4. Discuss how you would teach Proverbs for the youth group.
5. Discuss the historical books as “history” that teaches.
6. Discuss the theology of a specific Prophetic Book.

Paper 231 Special topic in the theology of the New Testament

Paper 233 Special topic in the theology of the New Testament

Paper 232 Special topic in the theology of the Old Testament

Paper 234 Special topic in the theology of the Old Testament

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 3 – PASTORAL THEOLOGY

Paper 312 Psychology-Counselling Introduction

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

Access to good on-line teaching and a current Text on Psychology and Christian Counselling is required.

1. What is psychology and what can it, and can it not do?
2. Discuss the development of ideas about the soul and mind.
3. What part does inheritance play in behavior?
4. Discuss what we mean by “personality”. What is the biblical perspective on this?
5. What part does punishment have in learning?
6. What is meant by “behavioural reinforcement” and how does this influence theological education?

Paper 313 Accounting for Non-profit Organizations

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced explaining the best procedures to put in place to secure the accounting processes for a “not for profit organization”.

There will need to be a presentation element of this subject so that the student can demonstrate that they have processes that will assist correct accountability and eliminate any corruption in the church finances. Actual “Audits” may be required – working with an accountant to ensure all key issues are understood/highlighted in a set of books.

Paper 314 Human Resources Introduction

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering questions from the HR texts chosen that are available locally.

Remember, some “dated” texts from the 1970s and 1980s are actually better and more practical than politically correct texts printed in the years 2000+. Assess common issues of HR as they relate to your church or Not For Profit organization.

Paper 321 Evangelism

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced on aspects of Church based evangelism.

This paper needs to have a practical element in it, and it is suggested that at least one assignment be preparation and planning for an evangelistic event, conducting the event, and following up and reporting the success of the event.

Paper 322 Biblical Counselling - Stage 2

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. Describe what it means to “tell the truth in love” in counselling.
2. Describe your manner of correcting bad choices/decision making processes in a client’s life.
3. What should you cover in the first counselling session?
4. Describe the elements of “stress management”.
5. How do you assist a depressed person to confront and beat their possibly chemical/clinical depression?
6. Is “mindfulness” biblical – or are we teaching/mentoring something quite different?

Paper 323 Biblical Management Principles

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

Using the Biblical Leadership Book 112, and 114 Minister’s Manual – explain how you mentor/lead the following.

1. Plan a major Church Event – listing all details needed to be covered to run it successfully.
2. Produce a visitation plan to achieve the goal of touching each family through a year.
3. Produce a prayer warrior plan and execute it for a six month period – with weekly updates.
4. How active is your worship service? Is it entertaining or involving? What needs to change?
5. Prepare a Sunday School Plan to enable the young people to learn and grow spiritually.
6. Are the youth group ready for martyrdom? What do they need to know/live/do to be strong?

Paper 324 Special topics in Hermeneutics or Homiletics

Paper 331 Special topics in Evangelism

Paper 332 Special topics in Counselling - Stage 3

Paper 333 Special topics in biblical management

Paper 334 Special topics in the theology of Administration/Management

Paper 335 Special Topics – student selection

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 4 – PHILOSOPHY/APOLOGETICS

Paper 421 Philosophy Introduction

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. What are the “bounds of sense” in our space time limited world?
2. Man is free to choose. Discuss.
3. What is truth? Answer Pilate’s question.
4. What is the problem of evil?
5. Are faith and reason opposites?
6. What is moral? Are ethics utilitarian?

Paper 422 Ethics Introduction

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. What is the Christian basis for ethics?
2. What is Jesus definition of Good?
3. Christian ethics changed Roman Civilization – discuss.
4. What is justice?
5. Are the Fruits of the Holy Spirit ethical virtues?
6. Are there sexual ethics, or just conventions of societies?
7. Special topic

Paper 423 Apologetics Introduction

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

Read the Book on the CD number 115 – “Other Religions”

1. Zen Buddhist “mindfulness” is popular – is it right?
2. Discuss how to approach a Moslem and discuss the nature of Jesus.
3. The Bahai religion is very pleasant – where is its error?
4. Atheism is mindless – discuss.
5. Legalism is at the heart of Hell itself – discuss.
6. Hinduism defines India – or does it. Discuss how you stand up to the Hindu Nationalist.

Paper 431 Special Topic in Ethics

Paper 432 Special Topic in Apologetics

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering the questions the student wishes to explore that you have the resources to examine thoroughly.

Faculty/Subject Area - Number 5 – CHURCH HISTORY

Paper 512 The Early Church

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. The blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church. Discuss in terms of the first 300 years.

2. Examine the changing role of the city bishop.
3. When politics entered the church the Spirit left. Discuss.
4. Was Constantine saved at all?
5. Where did the Egyptian Church go wrong, if at all?
6. Discuss the growth of Sacerdotalism.
7. Special topic

Paper 513 Israel's History to the destruction of the First Temple

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. What solid data do we have for the conquest of Israel around 1400 BC?
2. Discuss the historical problems with the sojourn in Egypt and the Exodus.
3. The time of the Judges – chaos or building time?
4. The legacy of David – discuss.
5. Solomon's Temple – evidence for it?
6. The Babylonians rise to power and domination – discuss.

Paper 521 The Medieval Church

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. Cathedrals are a bad spiritual sign. Discuss.
2. Crusaders – saints, sinners or psychopaths?
3. Scholarship advanced and recaptured knowledge – did it revive the soul/spirit?
4. What changes came in that captured the organized church in evil through this period?
5. How did the ordinary people learn and practice faith through this period?
6. What leads to the breaking out of genuine faith in the pre-reformation period?

Paper 522 The Reformation

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. What impact did the Albigenses/Waldensians have?
2. Describe the impact of Huss or Wycliff.
3. What was the legacy of printing? What occurs after its invention?
4. Identify the key parts played by the key reformers.

Paper 523 The Evangelical Revival and Missions

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

Read the books on the CD on the Great Revival.

1. The seeds of the eighteenth century revivals were sown in the seventeenth. Discuss
2. Discuss the life/legacy of one of the great reformers John and Charles Wesley.
3. Discuss the legacy for preaching of Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield.
4. Did Methodism grow spiritually, or out of the Obsessive nature of one man?
5. Describe the growth of social action through the revivals.
6. Slavery ends after the Great Revival's work was done.

Paper 524 Israel's history 535 BC to 139 AD

Four 2000 word assignments or Two 5000 word assignments to be produced answering any of the questions below.

1. The synagogue is the key to the period. Discuss.
2. The Persian Period was the "golden age" of Israel. Discuss.
3. Herod the Great was the greatest builder and destroyer of Judaism. Discuss.
4. The Jewish Revolt 66-70 AD was inevitable. Discuss.
5. The Messianic Synagogues were destroyed in the land by the Romans. Discuss the second revolt and how it changed Messianic Judaism.
6. Everyone fought over Jerusalem. Discuss the invaders and conquerors attitudes to the holy city.

Paper 531 Special Topic in Church History

Paper 532 Special Topic in Church History

Paper 533 Special Topic in Israel's History

Paper 534 Special Topic – Archaeology Excavation – a month on site in Israel – locate through Biblical Archaeological Review magazine annually.

Dr John C McEwan, BA, MA(Hons), Dip tchg, PhD, MNZAC
Lieutenant Commander RNZNVR (Rtd), VRD, JP.

Dean EBCWA

Auckland, New Zealand, 5 November 2019

APPENDIX 1.

STARTING A NEW BIBLE COLLEGE MINISTRY

If the Lord leads us to establish a new mission, it is with the power of the Holy Spirit ALONE that it must be established. If God does not build the house those that labour do so in vain. We must trust God not men, and depend upon prayer power not marketing or asking others for resources. Our first principle is therefore PRAYER for the Lord to open the doors and provide what is needed directly to enable HIS work to be done.

It is also an EBCWA principle that we do not ask anyone for money. We are a Faith Mission, and that means we pray, we work, we announce what God is doing, and leave provision to the sovereign will of the Lord. If resources are not there, we cannot advance, and we do not advance, for it is the Lord's harvest, not ours. If we cannot move forward through lack of funds, in the Lord's Sovereign Plan, it is because another has the job, or we are not ready.

We pray and wait, but we do not ask others for funds. Paul sets the example in **Acts 16:6-12**.

If we feel "led" to establish a ministry, but resources are lacking locally, we must get upon our knees and seek the way the Lord wants it established. Our experience is that it will be done without large buildings needing to be purchased, or any equipment initially. God has led us to establish Bible Colleges in ways that do not have any administrative costs, and where the Lord provides the money for the pastors to do what is required on a weekly basis.

EBCWA Operating Principles

1. If the Lord leads us in a direction the Lord will provide for us there if it is truly His Plan and His time for the plan to be executed. Pray for the Lord's provisions alone, for it is HIS work, and HIS glory through it.
2. Do not ask any man for money, simply announce the ministry and advance into it in prayer, seeking the Lord's provision as you go. God rarely gives lots of money to establish things, but seeks our walk of faith to ensure things are provided when needed in a way that honours Him and brings glory to His holy name. Jesus gets the glory when it is HIS work – not any men.
3. Gather prayer warriors around you immediately, and have them pray daily for the needs, but open your eyes and seek the humble brother/sister with the loaves and fishes, not the "Rich Young Rulers" who hold onto their wealth. God works through the poor and rich people, but only those who commit themselves to him with all they have. We do not "target" people to ask them to give, we target prayer and remain open to what the Lord wants done, not any plans of men. **Jeremiah 10:23-25**.
4. Do not seek a trouble free path, for it will probably not be the Lord's path. **Matthew 7:13-23** tells us that the Lord's path is always the "narrow/constricted" way. We have to squeeze through tight places on His path in prayer and with perspiration at times. Pray, trust, wait, and move as the door opens and you will have the resources to advance through it. God's good name and glory is at stake in HIS work.
5. Do not wait for a full bank account, for what is "full"? Step out and minister as the door opens and you have the opportunity, and the funds to arrive at the place of ministry, and speak there. If you cannot reach the place, you are not meant to be there. Be ready to personally work in manual labour, your trade, or in any task that you can, to fund your own ministry. All ministries must be LOCAL and supported locally. Do not fall into the "American Prosperity Gospel" trap, for it is a lie. We stand with the Apostle Paul, and he worked by day and preached by night. **Acts 18:1-3, 19:8-12, 1 Cor 4:9-16, 15:9-11**
6. EBCWA was established with this Pauline (and biblical) mental attitude. Paul didn't pray over handkerchiefs, he sweated as he worked, and it was those sweat cloths that healed the sick. Many men today seek "sweat-less" ministry, but God's Holy Word indicates that such are fake and crooked. God works with those who sweat in the work! If you are not ready to do that you must find another group to work with.

We are not magicians but workers in the Lord's vineyard, and so we are ready for the heat of the mid-day sun, and we will work into the night if the harvest requires it. We don't work with lazy people not ready to sweat, for the Lord never uses such people.

7. EBCWA began with myself (Dr McEwan) very ill, and very poor, through inability to work. We were given premises to use (we never owned them, and moved on from them four years later) and started without any funds above those needed to get the building useful. I provided my own transport (or was driven by students) and each person their own bibles and study books, and we started. God blessed greatly as we advanced, but not with money in abundance, just enough to advance to the end with joy in our hearts.
8. In the prisons of Southern and Western Africa we see the same things happening today (2011-2016). The prisoners have a Bible from the Bible Society, and note paper and a pencil provided from the guards, and the lecturer has a study book and their Bible, and they begin with nothing else. We now provide the notes on CD/flash drive to be down loaded onto any Prison computers, and the Power Points are included to use when teaching the Diploma Course if the facility has a projector and computer, but these are not needed. In your local situation, my beloved brother and sister, just start with a set of notes and your Bible open, but start with prayer and work with prayer, and end with prayer. We found that the prison authorities themselves provided printing for prisoners as the courses advanced when they saw the "fruit" in the lives of the prisoners. **Matthew 7:13-23**. Prisons were transformed by the course and the prison officers provided help for the men and women they once despised and feared, who they now saw were their brothers and sisters in Christ.
9. STARTING OUT - Prepare yourself by studying the Course from the CD or website. Be ready to teach it, as God only uses prepared people. Pray for the People, and the Premises as I did all those years ago. Step out to meet the needs with your Bible open and the notes under your arm, and see the Lord provide for what the poor need in your local area. If it is Bibles, pray for that need to be met. If it is for pencils and paper, pray for that to be met, or transport, pray for that.
10. Do not wait for computers, power point projectors, or cars to drive you to the place of ministry! If they are there use them, but do not depend on expensive technology, use the simplest things, for Satan finds the simplest things the hardest to oppose and destroy. Be like Paul, work and provide for your own team yourself and advance into the God anointed ministry.

Trust God, build a local ministry and serve the local churches by training the next generation of godly leaders.

Do not depend upon foreigners for contact with them can be easily cut off by the enemy.

Trust the Lord alone and keep as low profile and low cost as you can, for Satan finds it hard to eliminate poor people who have no support structures to destroy. High profile and high budget enterprises can be easily destroyed.

We have prayer and we can work and perspire in the Lord's work. With God's provision of power, people and His Plan we are unstoppable by Satan and his dysfunctional team.

Let us do that and trust God alone. If God builds, no man can tear down!

Jesus our Saviour, Lord, and King can be trusted.

Your brother in the Lord,

DR JOHN C McEWAN (DEAN – EBCWA)

Auckland New Zealand 14 September 2016

www.ebcwa.org.au

www.http://ebcwa.free.org.nz

www.drstress.co.nz

APPENDIX 2**THE BLASPHEMOUS NATURE OF THE SO CALLED “PROSPERITY GOSPEL”**

Satan hasn't needed to invent new evils for thousands of years, for man's Old Sin Nature is well known to him, as in the Garden of Eden he began his path of deceit for mankind by leading our ancestors astray after their own lusts rather than obedience to the Lord's clear commands.

As all marketing executives understand, greed and the desire for wealth and ease is the universal desire of all members of Old Sin Nature dominated mankind. Greed, as one crooked businessman pointed out to me one day, is the only dependable human emotion and drive. Like all lust greed is not good. It is a great evil that despises and abuses all others for the sake of the greedy person's lust being met.

The Bible has warned against this satanic evil from the beginning, but we see it written large in our modern church, where prosperity in time is seen as more important than heavenly rewards. The catch cry of these new preachers of unrighteousness is, “have it now and have it later”, or “have it now and don't think about later!” God's Word from the beginning has warned against these servants of the enemy and their viewpoint, but it has satanically deceptive force, and it always has to those who want an easy life and a comfortable journey through this life.

Many prefer the “Broadway” of life's pleasures to the narrow/constricted and thorn surrounded mountainous path that the Lord tends to call his disciples to follow. Some live in the palaces of this world like Daniel, but most of us are called to walk with Ezekiel and Jeremiah the “narrow/constricted path” that all too often involves suffering, sickness, and pressure filled situations. Even Daniel suffered these things, although living in a palace. The majority will sadly follow after deception, but this booklet is a trumpet call in these last days to all believers who wish to walk in spirit and in truth and honour the Lord rather than satisfy their lust for ease.

This is not me being dramatic, it is sad and biblical truth, so please believer hear the Lord's call to your heart. Read also the short paper at the end of this booklet – and set up your ministry Jesus way!

Matthew 7:13-23. *“13. Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

14. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

15. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17. Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23. And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Proverbs 6:16-23. *“16. These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

17. A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19. A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

20. My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21. Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

22. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

23. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”

We are told very clearly that persecution and pressures may await us on our road with the Lord through life, and that these things are not the sign of us being in sin, but are the sign that the “prince of this present world” may “hate” us for Jesus sake. The Lord reminds us that the Holy Spirit is given as the “Comforter” in all such pressures, not as the “money counter” to count our wealth and success!

John 15:18-27. “18. *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*
 19. *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*
 20. *Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*
 21. *But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.*
 22. *If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.*
 23. *He that hateth me hateth my Father also.*
 24. *If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.*
 25. *But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.*
 26. *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*
 27. *And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”*

In this world he told us we will have “trouble” not prosperity as the norm, but that through the power of the Lord through the Holy Spirit within (1 John 4:4) we can be overcomers against all pressures that will come in God’s power and provision. God’s provision to achieve all he calls us to do will always be “abundant” as Paul and the others found, and we are called to faith-rest our lives in that divine provision to achieve the divine purpose. **Hebrews 11:1-3.**

John 16:33. 33. *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

The Lord will supply all we need in order to fulfil the divine commission for our lives, but never to fulfil self centred prayer lists that are based on our lust for ease, wealth and plenty, but the Lord will always “fill up” all we need for worship, service and the needs of others and ourselves to do the on-going work.

Philippians 4:10-19. “10. *But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.*
 11. *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.*
 12. *I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*
 13. *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*
 14. *Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.*
 15. *Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*
 16. *For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.*
 17. *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*
 18. *But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.*
 19. *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
 20. *Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

If we have great prosperity we give thanks and pour it out to the Lord’s work, for all he gives is for service, not self centred enjoyment. Nothing in the Church Age is for ourselves, it is all for the body and to bring glory to Him not ourselves. Who gets the glory? Notice Paul’s words in the letter to Philippi above. He is under pressure as many times as he is “abounding”, but in all circumstances, and in all situations he is seeking the glory of the Lord and expecting the Lord to “come through” with all he will need to do the work. The Lord always does! Its never however about our lust based desires, but about his Plan and our desire to fulfil it 100% in our short lives. **Habakkuk 2:4, Mark 11:24, Galatians 5:1.**

In case we have any doubts about the apostolic message being the same as the Lord’s words we have Luke’s account of Paul’s ministry below, where he notes his message to the earliest churches after the Lord had raised him from the dead, when he was stoned to death at Lystra. Note the text here, for Paul has apparently been killed by the mob and then raised from the dead – and he just relaxes and keeps ministering.

Acts 14:19-28 “19. And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.
 20. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.
 21. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,
 22. Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
 23. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.
 24. And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.
 25. And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia:
 26. And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.
 27. And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.
 28. And there they abode long time with the disciples.”

Dealing with pressure situations and growing spiritually through faith applied in the Holy Spirit's power was the “norm” for the apostles and their expectation for all the new believers. We believe that this remains the Lord's expectation for us all. We are to grow in the “grace and the knowledge of the Lord”, **2 Peter 3:18**, and be ready to follow our Lord into any situation he calls us to walk through with his hand in ours.

Everywhere we walk in his plan for our life we have the filling of the Holy Spirit to comfort us and the Lord beside us for living fellowship, but it may be through fire and great darkness at times. It is His Light and His Word and Spirit that comforts us in such places. Hear Peter and Paul's encouragement and see and understand clearly the true nature of the “normal” Christian walk through this present world.

1 Peter 2:18-22. “18. Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.
 19. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.
 20. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.
 21. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:
 22. Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:”

1 Peter 4:12-19. “12. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:
 13. But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.
 14. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.
 15. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.
 16. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.
 17. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?
 18. And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?
 19. Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

Romans 5:1-11. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
 2. By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
 3. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
 4. And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
 5. And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
 6. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.

7. *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.*
8. *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
9. *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*
10. *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*
11. *And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."*

Paul's expectation was that pressure situations would be normal for the believer under satanic attack in the intensified stage of the Angelic Conflict that follows the Cross, the Empty Tomb, and Pentecost. The victory of the Cross and Empty Tomb has defeated Satan strategically, but we are urged to keep our armour on, for the defeated enemy is rage filled at his defeat, and seeks to destroy any careless believer who does not go about armed in the Spirit! We now walk a victorious battlefield in this world, and the ultimate eternal Victory is assured for the Holy Spirit filled believer, but alertness is called for each and every moment of every day, for the enemy's troops still walk about and they remain malice filled. Do a word study of the military command words, "alert", "stand" and see how many times believers are given "orders" that would be appropriate to troops on a battlefield, not any parade ground.

We are living still on a battlefield where the Lord Jesus Christ defeated the enemy of mankind, but where the enemy is still fighting any rear guard actions he can to maim and kill believers. This present world is not a palace where we relax but remains a battlefield, where deceptive enemies lie about pretending they are no threat but will kill the unwary and unarmed. The "Marriage Supper of the Lamb" is relaxing time and that is to come, but only after the Church is with the Lord in heaven. **Revelation 19.**

Until that eternal relaxation and celebration time we are soldiers and ambassadors of the court of heaven in enemy occupied territory, even though it is the blood soaked ground of the Lord's victory over sin and death. Evil is yet to be removed, but we are 100% sure that it will be finally defeated and removed – but that is the Lord's Second Advent and until then we are his soldiers and ambassadors.

So let us stand to attention – as the soldiers of the Lord, and let us hear his "Daily Orders" for the Church Sage and be obedient to his commands to us. We prove our love by following his orders, not being deceived by the agents of the enemy who have infiltrated the churches.

John 15:14, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

CHURCH AGE "DAILY ORDERS" FOR ALL BELIEVERS

- Ephesians 6:10-18.** "10. *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*
 11. *Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*
 12. *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*
 13. *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*
 14. *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*
 15. *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*
 16. *Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*
 17. *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*
 18. *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;"*

- James 4:7-10.** "7. *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*
 8. *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.*
 9. *Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.*
 10. *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."*

- 1 Peter 5:6-10.** "6. *Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:*
 7. *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*

8. *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*
9. *Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*
10. *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*
11. *To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*

James 1:12-19, 26-27. *"12. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

13. *Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

14. *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

15. *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

16. *Do not err, my beloved brethren.*

17. *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*

18. *Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

19. *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*

26. *If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*

27. *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*

James is very blunt about the reality of pressure, the "normal" nature of trouble and temptation, and the need to stand against it without blaming anyone else, and then he warns us to be wary of the great dangers coming from rich people who will abuse the saints, and the danger for the saints being deceived by riches.

James 5:1-6, 10-11. *"1. Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.*

2. *Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.*

3. *Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.*

4. *Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.*

5. *Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.*

6. *Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.*

10. *Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.*

11. *Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."*

Paul speaks also of "deceitful lusts", Ephesians 4:22, whereby believers are conned into following after things that do not matter and ignoring the eternal things that will actually bring glory to the Lord Jesus. He speaks confidently of our victory in Christ Jesus, and he assures the Roman Church that they can never be separated from the Love and Power of the Lord Jesus Christ even though they will most certainly go through great pressure situations and many may give their lives for the Lord.

Romans 8:35-39. *"35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

36. *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

37. *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

38. *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

39. *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 12:10-15. *"10. Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;*

11. *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*

12. *Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;*

13. *Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.*
 14. *Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.*
 15. *Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”*

Many in this church suffered and died in the persecution of 65-67 AD including Peter and his wife, and Paul.

The author of Hebrews reminds us that we are all being cheered on from the stands of eternity by all the great saints of the past, who watch with interest our struggles and triumphs as we battle our way through the angelic conflict. In a battlefield who isn't fighting? The answer is of course = the coward, and the one who stays out of the fighting for other reasons than cowardice, like laziness or lusts.

What are we to make of people who speak of and seek after wealth and power now as their right before the sight of the saints who gave their lives for the Lord? What must the saints of the past who suffered and died for their testimony say in heaven as they watch and hear the prosperity focused believers and make believers of today? What are we to say in light of the multitude of believers who even today are giving their lives for the Lord in many lands and suffering great want?

Do we accuse the holy martyrs and suffering saints of being sinners? Are they in error because of their present poverty and suffering? Are believers who suffer today in sin, do they lack faith, or are they just being asked to walk a harder path than us at this point, and may they possibly even win more eternal rewards than us?

Hebrews 11:32 – 12:3. *“32. And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

33. Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.

34. Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35. Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

36. And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

37. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38. (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40. God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

12:1. Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

We are on dangerous ground here if we accuse any poor or sick believer of being in error, for Job's counsellors were all prosperity gospel preachers and accused Job of sin, and our Almighty God condemns them all to death, and Job's prayer for them alone saved their lives! **Job 42:7-9.** The whole book of Job opposes the “prosperity gospel” message for the preachers of all such nonsense are roundly condemned by the Lord, as being in satanic (though well meaning and sincere) error!

God forbid that we insult the martyrs of yesterday or today – and yet this is exactly what the prosperity gospel preachers do every time they praise their own big cars, palatial homes and lavish life styles and seek more money from God's people to pay for their expenses.

In light of this discussion what are we to expect as we face the “last days” of this present age? Sadly it is to see more and more of these falsehoods proclaimed by deceived and deceiving men and women. The satanic nature of the prosperity gospel message is clear when you realise that every dollar given to these so called “ministries” is a dollar that isn't going into a genuine ministry that is bringing glory to the Lord.

Every person deceived by this evil message is sadly a person who later walks away from the Lord feeling “let down” by the false promises of the slick preachers of what I call “cash-Christendom”, and yet they have never met the real Jesus who is with us in trouble and distress. **John 16:33**.

Let us tell ourselves the truth brethren, and stand against this old evil in its new guise. Let us silence the “counsellors/persecutors of Job” who abound in our own day. We are well warned that we will have many of them about!

2 Timothy 3:1-5, 4:1-5. *“3:1. This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.
2. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,
3. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,
4. Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
5. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.
4:1. I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
2. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
3. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
4. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
5. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
6. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
7. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*

Let us choose our company believers! Let us select the company of the genuine saints like Job and the apostles of the Lord, not these make believer “aints”, in their white suits and patent leather shoes, who preach evil for their own benefit and the robbery of the genuine Church.

Let us select our company and be comfortable with the words of the apostles, and stand in the apostolic faith. Jude 3. We stand with our brethren who have suffered and died for their faith down the years and lest we stand ashamed before them and our Lord we do not seek a rose covered path through this life, but we seek the Lord’s only path for us, and whatever that brings to us.

We welcome any wealth that comes for it will be provision for ministry, not funds for self centred pleasure. We seek the blessing and abundance of the Lord’s provision for His Worship and Work, not our rest and relaxation. One great modern saint who gives millions of dollars a year to ministry said, “I have learned that the more I shovel out to the Lord, the more the Lord shovels back into my businesses, and the Lord always has a bigger shovel than me”. If we are prospered, as this man is in the Lord, it is to pour blessing to the glory of Jesus, not buy another new car to add to our garage full of classic cars!

We stand as the Lord’s soldiers, fully armed and filled with the Holy Spirit ready to worship, serve and minister to the saints, and we look to heaven for our provisions and our ever-lasting rewards. We stand with Paul not the fakes of the money making satanic circus.

REAPING AND SOWING

The preachers of the “Prosperity Gospel” will often quote from selected passages and draw “principles” from them, but beware that the text they quote is not taken out of its context, and so does not actually teach something significantly different to the things these men and women are arguing.

Favourite texts are **Malachi 3:8-10**, and **2 Corinthians 9:6**. They are representative of the others they will use, and so I will address them briefly here to underline the message that we have already seen above. The key background message of all the Scriptures, Old Testament and New Testament, is that God blesses us that we might be a blessing to others, and that the “blessing” may be material for some, but it may not, but whatever the Lord blesses us with, it is never for self centred enjoyment, but to pour out blessing to others to the glory of the Lord Jesus name and the uplifting of his Church.

Let us examine the principles of Malachi chapter 3. The first thing to notice about this chapter is it speaks of the Coming of the Lord to Israel as their Messiah. It speaks of the first messenger who announces the Lord (John the Baptist – Elijah figure) and the prophetic word given here in 399 BC was fulfilled 100% in the Lord's first Advent 29-32 AD.

It is a strong condemnation of the hypocrisy in the days of Malachi, and right through to the days when the Lord himself will come. Pharasaic hypocrisy was a major target for the Lord's attention in his First Advent. The Lord told many parables relating to money and giving, and challenged religious and legalistic hypocrisy in every way. These challenges remain relevant to us and the two Biblical Doctrines relating to GIVING are below set out by points to follow this up, for we are all challenged to "give as unto the Lord", and do so until he returns, or we join him through the door of death.

The "tithe" was not just a ten percentage gift, it was actually the "income tax" for the temple upkeep in ancient Israel. In the Doctrinal summaries below it is spelled out more fully, but the annual tithe, depending on the year in the agricultural cycle, could be a ten percent payment, or up to 23.3% in some years, including a gift for the "poor of the land" also. Free will offerings were always on top of the basic "tithe".

The problem in Malachi's day is that the people were lying about their annual agricultural/business profits and so were "robbing" the temple and the Levites of the needed funds to keep the temple sacrifices operating. The temple and the sacrifices spoke of the coming Messiah and so it was vital that they operated properly as they prepared for his arrival and spoke of His person and His work!

To fail to fulfil their obligation to support the Levites, the Temple, and the poor of the land, was to "rob God" of the witness to the coming Messiah and to show contempt for the Mosaic Law and the Lord's plan for Israel as the "light bearer nation" before the gentiles. It was a serious insult to God, just as believers today failing to support the local church, and its work, and their pastor, and yet expect the church to "be there for them".

The key issue is what is to be our mental attitude as we give? Do we give in grace and gratitude, in joy at what the Lord has poured out upon us, or do we calculate our giving to the percentage point and give "what is required"? Paul speaks about this, following up the many parables of the Lord, in 2 Corinthians chapters 8-9, and these chapters are referred to below in the two doctrinal studies.

It is our ministry's position that we give in grace and gratitude, not in legalistic calculation of what is the "correct amount". We believe that church age believers, following the parables the Lord told, and the teaching of the apostles, give abundantly, as the Lord has prospered us and we are able to give, and that giving may be in time, talents, spiritual gifting, goods or money.

Malachi's people had a strict calculation to stick to to support temple, Levites and the poor and they were robbing God by not meeting that requirement, but they are being challenged to give far more as a free will offering also on top of any obligatory tithes.

The issue for Malachi, and as the Lord's prophet, the issue for the Lord, is that their slack giving of the tithe is a reflection of their slackness in love towards the Lord their God. They need to return to the right level of love towards the Lord first, well before they re-open their wallets. (Verse 7 – **Revelation 3:19-22**.) Malachi will go on to describe the sort of life-style of the "lover of the Lord" who will be speaking often of the Lord, not just calculating their offering! **Malachi 3:16-18**.

The issue is not that the Lord will "double their investment" with him in giving. The issue is that if they get their love for the Lord right, then they will meet their obligations towards his holy temple and the Levites who run it, and they will support the poor! As James identifies, building on the Lord's words, recorded in Matthew chapters 6 and 25, if we get our heart right towards the Lord we will have all else right. That means we will give to the Lord's work and we will support our poorer brethren! **James 1:22 – 2:26**.

That means, as Paul notes in **2 Corinthians 8-9**, that we will pour with joy all we are able to give towards the Lord's work. As the Lord has prospered we will give. That means we will not try to give when we actually need to receive, as we have no money, but even if we have no money at this point we will still give, but it will be our time, energy, work, or some other thing. Whatever we give it will be given with joy not with any expectation of getting back, and we will give without a calculator in our hands.

The Lord will meet our needs so that we can meet the needs of the churches, but note here, it is the meeting of needs not the meeting of lusts or “wants”. We give freely and with joy, and we must be ready to receive if we have need to at times, without embarrassment, if we face the famines that this world brings at times.

The prosperity gospel preachers miss the obvious here, that we are to support each other, for good and spiritual brethren are at times “poor” and will need our help and we may need theirs at some point. The Jerusalem Church helped the others early on but later needed help to deal with a famine there. They were not spiritual in wealth and carnal when they needed help – they were spiritual both times, and so were the others who received help from them, and then later helped them. The believer needs to be ready to “abound” and “be abased”, and that means we are to be ready to receive gifts from others and then give gifts as we are able later. **Philippians 4:10-13**.

Any prosperity we have here is to “pour out” to the glory of the Lord, and any need we have is to be poured out before the Lord, **1 Peter 5:5-10**, knowing that He will meet our needs in accordance with the riches that are in our relationship with Christ Jesus. **Romans 9:23, Ephesians 2:2-8, Philippians 4:19**.

We are to be relaxed about wealth and goods, seeing them as mere “details of this present life”, and be ready to give them away to assist the Lord’s work and people, and ready to receive them from others when we have need. “Things” are no indication of spirituality, they are just “details” to be used or received to do the work we are called to do on this walk through this very short life. Spirituality is walking in the Holy Spirit, not a matter of wealth or the lack of it!

Let us stand with the apostles ready to pour ourselves out to the glory of God and the blessing of our brethren, and let us stand against those who wish to make the churches into money making rackets to feed their own and other’s lusts.

We are here for the glory of the Lord Jesus – and so let us use all we have for His Glory and seek any way we can find to assist his saints, our brethren that all that blesses us might be a blessing to others.

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Auckland NZ 14 August 2019

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