

STEPS OF FAITH

STEPS OF FAITH

Compiled by Sandra Scott and Scott Vifquain

STEPS OF FAITH

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning, God created the earth and mankind (Genesis 1, 3). Initially, God directed those who loved Him through the family head. We call this era the "Patriarchal period." Adam (Gen. 2-4), Seth (Gen. 4:26), Noah (Gen. 5:32-9:29), and Abraham (Gen. 12:1-4) were four family heads who lived during this period.

Later, during the Mosaic or Jewish age, God spoke through prophets or teachers like Moses (Exodus 2-Deuteronomy 34), David (I Samuel 6-I Kings 2), Daniel (the book of Daniel), Isaiah (II Kings 19, 20; the book of Isaiah) and others.

Now in this last age, God speaks to us through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2) and the Holy Spirit as recorded by the New Testament writers (John 16:13-15; II Timothy 3:16). God had His Words collected in a book called the Bible so that everyone could have access to it. Thus, when we study the Bible, it is God who is teaching us what He wants us to know (Hebrews 10:16).

God tells us that, in a sense, we are like Him (Genesis 1:26), for He provides us an eternal spirit that continues to live after the body goes to the grave. God has prepared a home in Heaven for this spirit (John 14:2) because He loves us (John 3:16). This home is free from sorrow, death, and sin (Revelation 21:3-8). In fact, God's eyes are so pure that He cannot even look at sin (Habakkuk 1:13). Unfortunately, all accountable people have sinned (Romans 3:23). Since God is not willing that anyone should be lost (I Timothy 2:4), He sent His beloved Son to deal with sin (Hebrews 2:9-10; Galatians 3:26-27) and to provide the way to Heaven (John 14:6). Then God provided the church to tell the world that Heaven awaits a prepared people (Ephesians 3:9-11).

Now about 2000 years after Jesus' death, there are hundreds of religions in the world and numerous variations of these religions. "Christianity" has over 1,000 denominations or divisions, that claim to love God. Some denominations even claim they are the original New Testament church founded by Jesus through His apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2). Yet these divisions teach doctrines that agree with neither one another nor the Word of God. If the purpose of our worship is to please people, or to make us feel good, we would be at liberty to select the denomination or division that suits us. However, since the church belongs to God (Ephesians 5:23-24; I Timothy 3:15), we must use God's Word to understand what He expects from His it. In the Bible, God provided the information necessary to evaluate denominations. Since many of these denominations do not agree in doctrine, it is impossible that all of them are acceptable to God for God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33). It is even possible that none of them is acceptable if none follows God's design.

People who expect a home in Heaven with God must study the Word of God and follow His plan for salvation. God warns us that "there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof is the way of death" (Proverbs 16:25). God is the One who can direct our way to Heaven (I Thessalonians 3:11; Jeremiah 10:23).

STEPS OF FAITH

This study guides students who are earnestly trying to please God to seek answers in the Word of God. Although the exercises are based on the King James Version of the Bible, the New American Standard or the New King James Version are acceptable alternatives to the King James Version and may be easier to read. Other versions are not recommended for use in this study but may be considered as commentaries. Completion of the exercises should take about 45 meetings. However, since the study is designed to encourage participation, some students may take longer to complete it.

Multiple verses are given in response to questions, for it is written "...that in the mouth of two or three witnesses all things are established" (Matt. 18:16). All verses listed should be read because they add depth to our understanding of God's Word and frequently provide additional information needed to clearly understand the subject. Students are also urged to purchase a concordance such as Strong's or Young's, and learn to use these books to search for other scriptures that may shed new information on topics introduced in this study.

To shorten this paper, many of the names of the books in the Bible are abbreviated. The first three or four letters in the name of the book serve as the abbreviation for the name of the book.

STEPS OF FAITH

Table of Contents

Chapter	Topic	Page
1	The Concept of the Godhead	5
2	God the Father	7
3	Jesus the Messiah, part I	12
4	Jesus the Messiah, part II.....	15
5	The Holy Spirit.....	20
6	The Gift of the Holy Spirit.....	23
7	Gifts of the Holy Spirit.....	28
8	The Church.....	34
9	The Church: Fulfillment of Prophecy, part I.....	36
10	The Church: Fulfillment of Prophecy, part II.....	40
11	The Church as God's Kingdom, part I.....	42
12	The Church as God's Kingdom, part II.....	44
13	The Church as the Family of God.....	48
14	The Church as the Body of Christ.....	51
15	The Church as the Bride of Christ.....	52
16	The Purpose of the Church.....	56
17	The Power of Faith.....	59
18	The Good Confession.....	62
19	The Importance of Repentance.....	64
20	Baptism, an End and a Beginning.....	67
21	Activities of the Church: Prayer.....	71
22	Activities of the Church: Lord's Supper, part I.....	74
23	Activities of the Church: Music in Worship, part I.....	78
24	Activities of the Church: Music in Worship, part II.....	81
25	Activities of the Church: The Grace of Giving.....	83
26	Activities of the Church: Teaching.....	86
27	Activities of the Church: Benevolence.....	89
28	The Government of the Church.....	93
29	The Role of Elders in the Church, part I.....	94
30	The Role of Elders in the Church, part II.....	98
31	The Role of Deacons.....	101
32	Evangelists as Servants of God, part I.....	103
33	Evangelists as Servants of God, part II.....	107
34	Members of the Church, part I.....	110
35	Members of the Church, part II.....	113
36	Duties of Christian Men and Christian Women.....	118
37	Church Discipline.....	120
38	Heaven: Home of the Saved.....	125
39	Sin Divides God from Humanity.....	127
40	Hell: A Place of Torment.....	130

STEPS OF FAITH

Chapter	Topic	Page
41	United by Marriage.....	135
42	Divorce and Its Consequences.....	140
43	Children, Blessings from God.....	143
44	Conclusion.....	148
	Appendix	

The Concept of the Godhead Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION: The Bible teaches that God is one (Mk. 12:29). However, we must also realize that the term *God* identifies three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We must not become confused and regard them as three gods. All are God, or divine, yet God is one. The New Testament identifies the Three Divine Persons as the Godhead.

God identifies Himself by various names in the Old Testament. These names will be discussed later but one name is important in this chapter. That is the name *Elohim* (Gen. 1:1-11, 29, 31; Ex. 2:24,25; Lev. 2:13; Num. 6:7; Deut. 1:6; Josh. 1:9; Judges 1:7; Ruth 2:12; I Sam. 1:17; II Sam 2:27; and many other references in these books and in most of the others in the Old Testament.)

According to Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible, *Elohim* is a plural term (p. 412) that may refer to the Godhead or could be used to signify the awesome power of God. Jesus alluded to this relationship when He said, "For David himself said by the Holy Spirit (1), The Lord (2) said to my Lord (3), Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Mark 12:36).

Until we pass from this life, we will not fully understand all that this term *Godhead*, means; however, we can recognize some concepts that the Bible teaches.

- I. In Gen. 1:26, God said, "Let _____ make man in _____ image, after _____ likeness..." This verse indicates that more than one being is covered by the name "God."
- II. After reading Matt.3:16-17, list all three members of the Godhead and how each One was manifested.

STEPS OF FAITH

Number	Part of the Godhead Represented	How the Representation Occurred
1		
2		
3		

III. In Romans 1:20, the word translated as *divinity* by some translators, is rendered *Godhead* in the King James version of the Bible. Paul reveals that

“...the _____ things of God from the creation of the world are clearly seen being understood by the things that are made...” In other words, nature reveals the Godhead.

IV. In I Cor. 8:6, Paul mentions two members of the Godhead: the

“ _____ God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in Him;

and one Lord _____, by whom are all things and we by Him.”

V. In Eph. 4:5-6, Paul mentions the three members of the Godhead: “There is one body, and one _____, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, _____ God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of _____.”

VI. “For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the _____ of the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9). Whatever we need to know about God or the Holy Spirit was revealed in Christ.

VII. Paul tells the Corinthians that God (the Father) established us in

_____, sealed us and the Father has given us the earnest of the

_____ (II Cor. 1:21-22).

STEPS OF FAITH

VIII. In Eph. 3:16-21, we read a powerful promise from God that involves the

Godhead. The _____ strengthens the inner man that _____ may dwell in our hearts by faith, that being rooted and grounded in love, we may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, length, depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that we might be filled with all the

_____ of _____.

Compare this to VI above. The Holy Spirit through Paul was not saying that we will have equality with Christ. But we can understand the love that motivated Jesus to leave Heaven and come to earth so that after we die we might leave earth and ultimately go Home to God.

God the Father Chapter 2

INTRODUCTION: From the first lesson, we understand that God is manifested in three ways: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The three together or separately are called God; yet God is one (I John 5:7). The relationship of the three may well be more complex than we can understand this side of Heaven. However, scriptures suggest that although each person in the Godhead is unique, the three share one motivation, and function in complete agreement. The Scriptures have much to say about each person. The revelation of the Father comes from God the Father, and from the Son through the Holy Spirit to prophets and inspired men whose words are preserved for our edification and sanctification.

I. Nature of God revealed in the Old Testament.

A. God's ways and man's ways are quite (similar different) (Is. 55:8-9).
(Cross out the incorrect choice.)

B. As we live, we learn and we change to accommodate the new

understanding; however, God does not _____ (Mal. 3:6; Rom. 11:29; James 1:17).

C. List five characteristics of God mentioned by the Psalmist in Ps. 86:15.

STEPS OF FAITH

1. Full of _____ 3. _____ 5. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

D. List three characteristics of God mentioned in Psalms 86:5.

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____

E. Does God count time as we do? For a _____ years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past and as a watch in the night (Ps. 90:4).

F. God is eternal (Deut. 33:27).

1. Abraham recognized that the Lord is the _____ God (Gen. 21:33).

2. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from _____ and to _____ (Ps 41:13).

G. God says that He is a _____ God (Exod. 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 4:24; Ezek. 39:25).

H. "...God knows the _____ of the heart (Ps. 44:21).

I. "The Lord God (is) merciful and _____, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and _____" (Exod. 34:6-7).

J. "God is merciful forgiving _____, transgression, and _____ ..." (Exod. 34:6-7; Matt. 6:14).

K. List 6 revelations of God's power that Daniel provides (Dan. 2:20-23).

1. God changes the _____ and _____

2. God _____ kings and _____ kings

3. God gives _____ to the wise and _____ to them that know understanding

STEPS OF FAITH

4. God _____ the deep and secret things

5. God knows what is in the _____

6. The _____ dwells with God.

L. Where can a sinner hide from God (Ps. 139:7-13)? _____

M. God hates seven things (Pro. 6:16-19):

1. A _____ look

2. A lying _____

3. Hands that _____ innocent blood

4. A heart that _____ wicked imaginations

5. Feet that are swift to run after _____

6. A false witness that speaks _____

7. A person who sows _____ among the brethren.

II. Nature of God revealed in the New Testament.

A. God is a loving God (I John 4:7); in fact, God is _____ (I John 4:16).

B. "Be ye therefore _____, even as your Father which is in heaven is _____" (Matt. 5:48).

C. Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If you loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said I go unto the Father: for

my Father is _____ than I (John 14: 28). God the Father is not the same as Jesus. *Since God the Father is greater than Jesus, the Father and Jesus must be two individuals.*

D. God is _____ (Rev. 19:6).

STEPS OF FAITH

- E. God knows the future; in other words, God has _____ (Acts 2:23; I P 1:2).
- F. "Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of _____ ye ask Him" (Matt. 6: 8, 32).
- G. "For as the Father hath _____ in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have _____ in Himself" (John 5:26).
- H. "Be ye therefore _____, as your Father also is _____" (Luke 6:36).
- I. But Jesus answered them, My Father _____ hitherto, and I _____ (John 5:17).
- J. God is _____ and in Him is no _____ at all (I John 1:5). God is also called the Father of _____ (James 1:17), and Christians are children of _____ (Eph. 5:8).
- K. God is without _____ (Deut 32:4).
- L. The Lord is a God of _____ (I Sam. 2:3).
- M. We know that God is _____ with the wicked every day (Ps. 7:11).
- N. We are told that God is a consuming _____ (Deut. 4:24)
- III. Personal Characteristics of God. No one has seen God except Jesus (John 6:46).
- A. Moses saw the back of His " _____ ", but not the face of God (Exod. 33:17-23). All we know of God's appearance is what God or Jesus tells us.
- B. Jesus said that He and the Father are _____ (John 10:30). *That doesn't necessarily mean they look identical, but that they are one in spirit and in intent.*

STEPS OF FAITH

C. Philip asked Jesus to show them (the apostles) the Father. Jesus said “he that hath seen Me hath seen the _____” (John 14:7-8).
The Son is a true reflection of God. All the apostles needed to know of God could be seen in Christ.

D. The Lord is an everlasting _____ (Is. 60:20; Hab. 3: 3-4).

E. The voice of God sounds like mighty _____ to some people, and _____ to others (Rev 19:6).

IV. Two things God that cannot do:

A. God cannot _____ (Ps. 15:4; Mal. 3:6).

B. God cannot _____ (Titus 1:2).

V. God’s relationship to those who love Him.

A. Israel is like a _____ who God loves with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3-4).

B. Jeremiah records that God said: “I am like a _____ to Israel and Ephraim is my firstborn” (Jer. 31:9). (Ephraim is another name for northern Israel, (Guthrie, Motyer, Stibbs and Wiseman, p. 644)).

C. God was like a _____ to Israel when He brought them out of Egypt (Jer. 31:32).

E. In the Old Testament, God is recognized as the Father of _____ (Is. 64:8) and all _____ (Is. 63:16).

F. Holy and _____ is His name (Ps. 111:9).

VI. Names for God the Father

A. God is called the Father of _____ (Heb. 12:9).

B. God is also called the Father of _____ (Jam. 1:17).

STEPS OF FAITH

- C. And call no man your _____ upon the earth: for one is your _____, which is in heaven (Matt. 23:9).
- D. God's name is _____ (Ps. 83:18).

Jesus the Messiah Part I Chapter 3

INTRODUCTION: A study of the church described in the New Testament is incomplete unless a study of its Founder is included. This exercise compares the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the Messiah with the life of Jesus to prove that He was indeed the One promised from the beginning of the world. Jesus' Messiah-ship is validated by the fulfillment of prophecy and also by God, the Father, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:16-17), as well as the numerous miracles performed by Jesus (John 5:36).

I. Prophecy and fulfillment:

A. Early life:

1. The Messiah would be made of the seed of _____ (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 53:10-11; Gal. 4:4).
2. " _____ shall all the _____
_____; because thou hast obeyed my voice." (Gen. 22:18; Acts 3:25-26).
3. When Jesus was to come:
 - a. Daniel 9:24-27 is the prophecy of the 70 sevens. The term translated "week" is more accurately translated "seven." The number in this passage is probably 70 x 7 years. However, correlation with an exact period of time is not necessary for 7 as used in the Old Testament often stands for "completeness." In the New Testament, this thought is conveyed by the word "fullness" in Galatians 4:4.
 - (1). What great city would be rebuilt before the Messiah arrived (Dan. 9:25)?

STEPS OF FAITH

(2). What would happen to the Messiah (Dan. 9:26)?

Ans. _____

(3). After the Messiah completed His work, who would come and what would he do to the city (Dan. 9:26)?

Ans. _____

(4). What would cease after that time (Dan. 9:27)?

Ans. _____

b. Jesus walked the streets of a city rebuilt near the end of Old Testament times. What was this city called (John 5:1; Matt.11:11)?

Ans. _____

This city was destroyed in A.D.70 by Roman armies.

c. What happened to Jesus about thirty years before the city was destroyed (Matt. 27:35)?

Ans. _____

d. That Jesus was crucified was not unusual in that day but what followed His death was. Explain (Matt. 28:9-20).

Ans. _____

4. Isaiah prophesied that a _____ would bear a child (Isa. 7:14).

5. An angel identified Mary as that _____ (Matt. 1, esp. vs. 18, 23).

6. The Messiah was to come from the tribe of _____ (Gen. 49:10; Matt.1:2; Luke 3:33; Rev. 5:5).

STEPS OF FAITH

7. The Messiah was to be born of the house of _____
(Matt. 1:1; Isa. 9:7; Jer. 23:5; II Sam. 7:12-16).
8. Where was the Messiah to be born (Micah 5:1-2)? _____
9. Where was Jesus born (Luke 2:4; Matt. 2:1)? _____
10. The Messiah was to be called _____
(Isa.7:14); Jesus was called _____ (Matt. 1:23) which
means _____ (Matt. 1:23).

B. Work of the Messiah:

1. According to Isa. 9:1-2, where was the Messiah to teach and work?

Answer. He taught and worked in the land between the _____
River and the sea that lay in darkness. The Messiah was to be seen
as a great _____ by those who live in the shadow
_____.
2. Jesus taught in many cities. Among these cities were: _____
(Matt. 4:13-16), _____ (Mark 2:1),
_____ (Luke 19:1), _____ (Luke 19:28),
_____ (John 4:46), _____ (John 11:1,5,6,11,18).
3. These cities lay between the _____ River and the
_____ Sea.
(Hint: check a map of the Bible lands and compare it with B2).
4. Jesus came as a _____ that shines in _____
(John 1:5; 9:5).

STEPS OF FAITH

5. The Messiah was to be a _____ like _____

(Deut. 1:1; 18:15).

6. Jesus was a _____ like _____ (Deut. 18:15; John 1:45; 6:14).

7. Jesus was a _____ after the order of _____ rather than Levi (Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:5-10; Gen. 14:18-20).

8. First Kings chapters 1 and 2 tell the story of King David's death. David promised his throne to his son Solomon (I Kings 1:17); however, another son, Adonijah, usurped Solomon's right to reign. Adonijah sat down on the throne and proclaimed that he was David's successor (I Kings 1:18). David had Solomon anointed as king (v.39), placed Solomon on his mule and had him proclaimed king (vs. 33, 40). Solomon was then said to be sitting on David's throne (v.48). Therefore, this phrase "to sit on David's throne" must mean possessing David's authority as the king who ruled over the children of Israel, God's people, in Old Testament times.

a. The Messiah was to sit on _____ (Isa. 9:6,7).

b. Jesus was raised to sit on _____ (Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30).

9. The Messiah was to purify the _____ (Ps. 69:9).

Jesus cleansed the _____ when He started His work (John 2:14-17). At the conclusion of His work, He again cleansed the _____ (Matt. 21:9-14).

10. What would the Messiah do when He came to earth, according to prophecy (Zech. 6:13)?

The Prophet said the Messiah would build the _____,

bear the _____, and _____ and _____ upon His throne.

STEPS OF FAITH

Jesus the Messiah Part II Chapter 4

INTRODUCTION: Jesus not only claimed to be the Messiah (John 4:25-26), but also He claimed equality with God the Father (John 8:44, 58; Exodus 3:14). In addition, the Bible records that God the Father, calls Jesus "God" meaning that He is divine (Heb. 1:6-8).

I. The Messiah's trial and death:

A. Would the Messiah's own people love Him (Psa. 2:1)? _____
Was Jesus accepted by His people (Matt. 21:42; Acts 4:10-11)?

B. One who was like a rejected stone would be made a chief corner stone (Psa. 118:22). Who was this "stone" (Matt. 21:42; Acts 4:10-11)?

C. At the end of His time on earth, the Messiah would enter

_____ riding on a colt of an _____ (Isa. 62:11;
Zech. 9:9). Jesus entered _____ mounted on the colt of an
_____ (Matt. 21:2-7; Luke 19:30-35; John 12:14-16).

D. The Messiah was to be _____ by a friend for how much
money (Zech. 11:12-13)?

Ans. _____

What happened to Jesus (Matt. 26:15; Mark 14:10)?

Ans. _____

E. What did the prophet say would happen to the money received by the
betrayers (Zech. 11:13)?

STEPS OF FAITH

Ans. _____
What became of the money Judas received (Matt. 27:5-10; Acts 1:15-19)?

Ans. _____

F. The Messiah was to be _____ and _____, and _____ (Isa. 53:5). Did all these things happen to Jesus (Matt. 27:46; John 19:1-3)? _____

G. The Messiah was to _____ mankind's _____ (Isa. 53:4-6; Dan. 9:26). Jesus _____ the sick and cast out _____ (Matt. 8:16-17).

H. The Messiah was to die among _____ (Isa. 53:9-12). Jesus was crucified between _____ (Matt. 27:38).

I. The Messiah would be pierced in the _____ and _____ (Ps. 22:16; Zech. 12:10). Did that happen to Jesus (John 20:27)? _____

J. God would _____ the Messiah (Psa. 22:1). When Jesus took the sins of the world on His shoulders, what did God, the Father, do (Hab. 1:13; Matt. 27:46)? Ans. _____

K. The Messiah would be _____ by men (Ps. 22:1-8; Isa. 53:3). Jesus was also _____ by men (Mark 15:7-20; Acts 4:10-12).

L. They were to give the Messiah _____ and _____

STEPS OF FAITH

- to drink (Ps. 69:21). When Jesus hung on the cross, the soldiers offered Him _____ and _____ to drink (Matt. 27:34, 48).
- M. People would cast lots for His _____ (Ps. 22:12-19). While Jesus hung on the cross, soldiers cast lots for His _____ (Mark 15:24).
- N. While on the cross what did Jesus say (Matt. 27:46)? _____

Did that also fulfill prophecy? (Ps. 22:1) _____

- O. The Messiah was like the sacrificial lamb in that none of His _____ were broken (Exo. 12:46; Psa. 34:20). The bones of the other people crucified with Jesus were broken, but were His bones broken (John 19; esp., vs.34-37)? _____
- P. The Messiah would be _____ from the dead (Ps. 16:9-10; Isa. 53:9). Was Jesus raised from the dead (John 2:19-21; 20:11-17; Acts 13:30-37; I Cor. 15:3-9)? _____
- Q. The Messiah was to _____ to Heaven (Ps. 68:18). Did Jesus also fulfill this prophecy (Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9; Eph. 4:7-8)? _____

Many other verses in the Old Testament describe Jesus' life, His reign, and the church. These passages were selected because they pinpoint events that are familiar to most of us. Sections II and III below provide testimony from actual witnesses that Jesus was both Christ, or Messiah, and God.

II. Jesus is the Messiah!

- A. God said to listen to _____ (Matt. 17:5).
- B. Christ is a name that means _____ (John 4:25).

STEPS OF FAITH

- C. Jesus said He was the _____ (John 4:25-26).
- D. Andrew told Peter that Jesus was the _____ (John 1:40-41).
- E. Peter said that Jesus was the _____ (Matt. 16:18).

III. As a member of the Godhead, Jesus is "God," or divine!

- A. God told the prophets that Christ was _____
(II Sam. 7:12-16).
- B. Jesus said He was _____ (John 5:18;
10:30; Phil. 2:6).
- C. God said Jesus was _____ (Heb. 1:8).
- D. Who sent Jesus into the world? _____ and His _____
(Isa. 48:16; John 3:16).
- E. This Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, said, "... I am _____
_____..." (Isa. 48:17).
- F. Jesus said, "...Before Abraham was, _____" (John 8:58; Isa. 48:16;
Exo. 3:14).
- G. The Godhead mentioned in Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, and Colossians
2:9, consists of three separate divine individuals who are the _____,
_____ and the _____ (Matt. 3:16-17; Heb. 1:1,2;
John 14:26).
- H. The passages in III, F, together with the fact that Jesus is "God" or
divine and was "God," or divine in the days of the Old Testament (John
17:5) indicate that _____ was the one speaking to Moses.

Many passages in this lesson are taken from Bible books written centuries before Jesus' birth. The time line below indicates approximately when the Old Testament books were written (The New Bible Commentary, Revised, edited by D. Guthrie and J.A. Motyer, Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1973).

STEPS OF FAITH

magnetism. The Bible has at least 90 references to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and over 263 in the New Testament.

I. Descriptive names for the Spirit:

- A. The Spirit is called the _____ (John 14:6; 15:26; 16:7).
- B. John calls the Spirit _____ (I John 2:1).
- C. Luke calls the Holy Spirit _____ and records that the Holy Spirit comforts God's people (Acts 9:13).
- D. Paul calls Him the _____ and said He forbade them to enter Asia (Acts 16:6). According to Goebel Music, in 1611, when the King James Version was written, this term meant *Holy Guest* (Wendell Winkler, p. 15).
- E. The Holy Spirit is called the _____ (Romans 8:9).
- F. The Spirit is called the _____ (Eph. 1:13).
- G. The Spirit is called the _____ (John 14:17).
- H. The Spirit is called the _____ (Rom. 8:2).
- I. The Spirit is called the _____ (Heb. 10:29).
- J. The Spirit is known as the Spirit of _____

_____ and the Spirit of the fear of the Lord _____ (Isaiah 11:2).
These names reveal the characteristics of the Holy Spirit.

II. The Holy Spirit is revealed to be a separate being by the way men in the Bible have responded to the Spirit, and the way the Spirit responded to humanity.

- A. In Bible times, people _____ the Spirit (Acts 7:51).

STEPS OF FAITH

- B. People even _____ to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3).
- C. People are commanded to avoid _____ the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31-32).
- D. People can also _____ the Holy Spirit (Heb. 10:29).
- III. The Holy Spirit is revealed to be a separate being by the way the Spirit responded to humanity.
- A. The Holy Spirit _____ with man through God's revealed will (Gen. 6:3).
- B. The Holy Spirit _____ us (Rom. 15:30).
- C. What we do may _____ the Spirit (Isaiah 63:10).
- D. The Spirit may be _____ by what we say or do (Eph. 4:30).
- E. The Spirit _____ what men said (John 16:13).
- F. He _____ things to the apostles (John 16:13).
- G. The Spirit _____ out the secret things of God (I Cor. 2:10).
- H. The Spirit _____ what we should know (I Cor. 2:10+, II Cor. 13:14).
- I. The Holy Spirit _____ God's truth to the apostles (Matt. 10:30; John 16:13; I Tim 4:1).
- J. Paul mentions that the Holy Spirit _____ for us before God the Father (Rom. 8:26-27).
- K. The Spirit has a _____ that makes us free from the law of sin and death" (Rom. 8:2).
- L. The Spirit _____ men (II Pet. 1:21).
- M. The Spirit _____ (John 14:26; I Cor.2:13-14).
- N. When Christians obey the Bible, the Spirit _____ Christians (Rom. 8:14).

STEPS OF FAITH

O. In addition, the Spirit _____ of Jesus (John 15:26).

P. The Spirit _____ us (Rom. 8:27).

IV. Characteristics of the Spirit

A. The Spirit is _____ like the other members of the Godhead (Heb. 9:14).

B. The Spirit is _____ (I Cor. 2:10).

C. The Spirit is _____ (Ps. 139:7-12). Since the Holy Spirit is God, as deity, He shares the characteristics of the Godhead.

V. Jesus recognizes the Holy Spirit as God when He said: "Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them into the name of the

_____ and of the _____ and of the _____

_____ " (Matt. 28:19). Note also, Jesus did not say "names" as if there were three, but "name", singular, for God is one.

VI. The _____ takes His place along with the Father and Son as a member of the Godhead (Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22; Romans 15:30). All of these interactions suggest that the Spirit is certainly a being with feelings and with significant authority.

The Gift of the Holy Spirit Chapter 6

INTRODUCTION: Obedient believers are provided the hope of an eternity in Heaven removed from the difficulties of this life. But that isn't all that is given to those who are Christians. We are provided special benefits that come from our close relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. One of these benefits is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Some people admit that the Holy Spirit dwells in us but they say that Spirit is essentially the Word. That view contradicts John 1:14 where we find that Jesus is the Word. It also contradicts I John 1:7 where John says that: *for there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost and these three are one.* The ASV omits this verse and substitutes: *And it is the spirit that beareth witness because the spirit is truth.*

STEPS OF FAITH

Others say that when we study the Bible, commit its precepts to memory and let them shape our lives, we become the vessel of the Spirit. Still others disagree and proclaim that if the Spirit truly dwells within the Christian, we must have evidence to validate the assertion. Let's examine what the Bible says about this controversial topic, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

I. Inspired writers speak about God, the Son and the Spirit dwelling in Christians.

A. Indwelling of God:

1. "...And he that keepeth His _____ dwelleth in Him, and He in him" (I John 3:24).
2. John wrote that "If we love one another, _____ dwelleth in us" (I John 4:12).
3. If we love one another, _____ dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us (I John 4:12).

B. Indwelling of Christ

1. Know ye not your own selves, how that _____, except ye be reprobates" (II C13:5).
2. That _____ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of _____ (Eph. 3:17).
3. Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is _____ in you, the hope of glory... (Col. 1:26-28).
4. Paul wrote to the Ephesians that he bowed his knees unto the Father that He would grant them to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man (part of Eph. 3:14-15) that _____ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love may be

STEPS OF FAITH

abler to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth

knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of _____
(Eph 3:17-19).

5. For as many of you as have been baptized into _____ have put on _____ (Gal. 3:27).
6. Paul wrote in Eph. 3:17 "...that _____ may dwell in your heart through faith.
7. How does faith come?
Ans. "So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of _____" (II Cor. 13: 5).
8. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is _____ the hope of glory (Col. 1:27). It seems if we are in Christ, Christ is in us.
9. How do we get into Christ? For as many of you as have been _____ into Christ have put on Christ (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3 confirms this).

C. The indwelling of the Spirit

1. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit if so be that the _____ of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His, but if the _____ of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His _____ that dwelleth in you (Rom. 8:9-10).
2. Paul wrote: "Know ye not that ye (= you all) are the temple of

STEPS OF FAITH

God, and that the _____ dwelleth in you?”
(I Cor 3:16)

3. Then again: “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the
_____ which is in you, which ye have of God and
ye are not your own? (I Cor 6:19)

D. How does the Spirit dwell in us?

Ans. In Galatians 4:6, we discover, “And because ye are sons, God hath sent
forth the _____ into your hearts, crying Abba,
Father.”

E. What evidence do we have that the Spirit dwells in the Christian (Prov. 20:11;
Matt. 7:20; Gal. 5:22-23)? (Please, read all three references.) Summarize
the above.

Ans. _____

F. As Christians feed on the word of God, read the word, they are
strengthened by the _____ (Eph. 3:16; Acts 20:32) and they
grow (I Pet. 2:2).

G. After they obey God, Christians are led by the _____
(Rom. 8:14).

H. How does the Spirit lead Christians? Ans. “Thou shalt guide me with thy
_____ and afterward receive me into glory” (Ps. 73:24;
John 16:13 affirms this).

STEPS OF FAITH

- I. Where does the Christian find this counsel (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:2, 8; II Pet. 1:1; Rom. 1:15-16; Rev. 1:1-3)?

Ans. The _____, such as John, Paul and Peter, taught believers about Christ. We have their teachings written down in the Bible.

III. Work of the Spirit

- A. In I Cor. 2:10-12, we see that the Spirit revealed the things of God to us through the _____.
- B. When we pray, the _____ makes intercession for us according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27)
- C. Through Jesus, both Jews and Gentiles have access by one _____ unto the Father (Eph. 2:13, 18).
- D. God hath also sealed obedient believers, and given the earnest of the _____ (II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 4:30).
- E. Christians are built together for an habitation of God through the _____ (Eph 2:22).
- F. If we are led by the _____ (Gal. 5:18, 25), we will walk in the Spirit Gal. 5: 25).
- G. Those in whom the Spirit dwells will display characteristics known as the "fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22-23; Matt. 7:19-20). List the characteristics:

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

Gifts from the Holy Spirit Chapter 7

INTRODUCTION: When the Bible says people in New Testament time were given a “gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38), it could mean that the Holy Spirit is the gift, or it may mean that the Holy Spirit gave a gift. We will consider the gift of the person of the Holy Spirit in the next lesson.

Paul tells us that during New Testament time special gifts from the Holy Spirit were given to Christians (II Cor. 12:1-7). These special gifts included the gift of prophecy (I Cor. 13:9), healing (I Cor. 12:9), tongues (Acts 2:3-4), wisdom (I Cor. 12:8), knowledge (I Cor. 12:8) and faith (I Cor. 12:9).

Today, when we speak with religious people who are not members of the Church of Christ, we immediately discover that many believe these miraculous gifts are still available. Some even claim to have these powers today. How nice it would be if someone on Earth could actually miraculously heal those who have plagues such as cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer’s and multiple sclerosis. Unfortunately, these diseases still trouble us because miracles were never about simply healing the ill. Rather, each of the gifts had a spiritual reason for existing.

- I. A number of Old Testament people had spiritual gifts:
 - A. The first person who had a spiritual gift was the prophet _____ a man who did not die (Gen. 5:21-24).
 - B. Joseph had the gift of _____ (Gen. 40:8-23).
 - C. In Genesis 49: 1-27, _____ seemed to have the gift of prophecy as well.
 - D. The next person who had special powers was _____ (Exodus 4:10-17).
 - E. _____ was the next person who had special powers (Joshua 3:9-13, 18).
 - F. Elijah, another man who did not die (II Kings 2-14), performed miracles. List three:
 1. I Kings 17: 10-15 _____
 2. I Kings 17:17-24 _____
 3. II Kings 1:8-15 _____

STEPS OF FAITH

- G. _____ was a prophetess (Judges 4:4).
- H. Samson had super strength given by the _____ (Judges 13:25; 14:19).
- I. _____ was a prophet who failed to discipline his children (I Sam. 2:12, 30-36).
- J. _____ became a prophet as a youth (I Samuel 3:4-18).
- K. Saul was a _____ and a _____ (I Sam. 9:27; 10:6, 20-24).
- L. Next we read about a boy, _____ who also became a prophet and a king (I Sam. 16:13; 23:1-2).
- M. _____ was a prophet who did not die (II Kings 2:1-12).
- N. _____ did many miracles including multiplying a widow's oil, raising her dead son, and healing a man with leprosy (II Kings 4:1-7, 32-37, 1-15).
- O. No study of the Old Testament would be complete without mentioning the prophets _____ (Jer. 1:1-5), _____ (Eze. 1:3), _____ (Dan. 1:17), and _____ (Isaiah chapters 1, 2).
- II. Spiritual Gifts in the New Testament.
- A. God gave Jesus special powers while Jesus was on Earth.
1. We know that Christ had the Spirit _____ measure (Isaiah 11:1-2; John 3:34; Acts 10:38).
 2. List fifteen powers that Jesus had which prove Jesus had "the Spirit without measure" while on Earth. These are divided into three groups.
 - a. Power over human life: Jesus could...
 - (1). _____ (Matt. 8:5-13; 14-15; 9:2-8; 35; Mark 3:10; Luke 4:38-40; 5:18-26)

STEPS OF FAITH

- (2). _____ (Matt. 9:23-25; Luke 7:14-16; Luke 8:47-56).
- (3). _____ (John 5:5-16)
- (4). _____ (Matt.9:27-31)
- (5). _____ (Matt. 12:22)
- (6). _____ (John 1:47-49)
- (7). _____ (Matt. 12:25; Luke 5:22, 11:17)

b. Power over nature: Jesus...

- (1). _____ (Matt. 14:15-21; John 6:1-14)
- (2). _____ (Matt. 15:29-38; Mark 8:1-9)
- (3). _____ (Luke 8:22-25)
- (4). _____ (John 6:15-21)
- (5). _____ (Matt. 17:22-23; Mark 13:1-2; Luke 5: 5:2-13; 21:5-32; John 2:19-21)
- (6). _____ (Matt. 10:1-5; Mark 6:7; Luke 10:1-12)
- (7). _____ (Mark 6:56)

c. Jesus has power over Satan

- (1). _____ (Mark 9:14-29)
- (2). _____ (Matt. 9:32-33; Mark 1:24-26; Luke 8:26-37)

II. The Spirit gave other people special powers though not to the same extent as Jesus had.

STEPS OF FAITH

- A. The Holy Spirit gave gifts to the _____ (Acts 2:3-4). The Apostles represent the nation of Israel.
- B. The Spirit gave other people special powers though not to the same extent as Jesus had.
1. The Holy Spirit gave gifts to the _____ (Acts 2:3-4). The apostles represent the nation of Israel.
 2. List 8 of the gifts given to people in New Testament time by the Holy Spirit (Acts 3:1-7; 19:12;).
 - a. _____ (I Cor. 12:8)
 - b. _____ (I Cor. 12:8)
 - c. _____ (I Cor. 12:9)
 - d. _____ (I Cor. 12:10)
 - e. _____ (I Cor. 12:10)
 - f. _____ (I Cor. 12:10)
 - g. _____ (I Cor. 12:10)
 - h. _____ (I Cor. 12:10)
 - i. _____ (I Cor. 12:9)
- C. Those who speak a “tongue” are actually speaking a _____ known to others (Acts 2:4, 8, 11).
- D. The Apostles, Jewish men, received gifts at _____
_____ (Feast name is needed.) (Acts 1:26-Acts 2:1).
- E. The Holy Spirit also gave gifts to the _____ when those at the house of Cornelius received gifts (Acts 10:44-49; 11:15-17). Thus all received the gifts, Jews and Gentiles.

STEPS OF FAITH

F. We know the Spirit gave miraculous gifts to some members of the

early _____ through the hands of the _____
(Acts 19:5-6; II Tim. 1:6; I Cor. 12:4-14, 28).

III. The Apostles gave Christians Special Powers

A. Why were special gifts given to early Christians (Mark 16:20; I Cor. 2:9-13; 14:4, 31; Heb. 2:3-4)? Give four reasons.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

B. _____ could pass along gifts from the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:5-6) because along with the twelve, or thirteen if we count Matthias

(Acts 1:22-26), Paul was an _____ (Gal. 1:15-24; Acts 9:1-5; Gal. 2:7).

C. The source of Paul's gifts: Study the following references and check the one source that seems most likely:

1. Ananias (Acts 9:1-19)
Ananias laid his hands on Paul (called Saul) and told him that he was sent to Paul that he might receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost. Ananias also gave Paul a message from God.
2. Apostles (Acts 8:15-17) Recall that Paul didn't meet with the Apostles for about three years (Gal. 1:16-19). In addition, those to whom the Apostles gave the gifts could not pass the gifts on (Acts 8:15-17). Paul could pass along gifts to others.
3. Christ (Matt. 3:11) Paul was with Christ after Jesus' resurrection and ascension (Gal. 1:13-18). Christ and the Holy Spirit gave gifts to the Apostles (Mark 6:7; Luke 9:1-2,6; 10:1,9,17-18).
4. The Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) Since those to whom the Apostles gave the gifts could not pass the gifts on, Paul may have received his gift directly from Holy Spirit sent by Christ like the other Apostles.

STEPS OF FAITH

D. Spiritual gifts were controlled by the _____ (I Cor. 14:32).

E. People in the early Church taught what the Spirit moved them to teach

in a language that could be _____ and understood by those present (I Cor. 14:23, 26-29).

F. How long were special gifts intended to last (I Cor. 13:8-10; Eph. 4:12-13)?

Ans. _____

G. What does “that which is perfect” most likely refer to (Ps. 19:7; I Pet. 1:3, 18-20)?

Ans. _____

According to Young’s Analytical Concordance, the word for “perfect” in Koine Greek is *teleios* which means end, complete, or perfect. According to Rubel Shelly in Winkler’s book, *What do You Know about the Holy Spirit?* this form of *telos* is not applied to people; it is applied to things (p. 228). We know the Old Law was perfect. However, since people weren’t able to live up to its code, most likely, the phrase does not refer to the Law of Moses.

When the Bible was fully revealed, the Law of the Lord was complete and perfectly able to accomplish the wonderful purpose of God: namely, the salvation of the human soul. Peter writes that “According as His divine power hath given unto us *all things* that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (II Pet. 1:3-4). These things are recorded for us in the perfect Word of God.

At the end of the first century A.D., when the Peshitta version of the Bible was compiled, the Bible was *almost* complete; however, John’s writings were not included probably because they were not yet available. After John returned from exile on the island of Patmos, and after his letters were circulated among Churches, John’s writings were added to the Bible. Soon after that, the Bible as we know it was complete. Thus, with the complete revelation of the will of God, that which is perfect had arrived; then the reason for the gifts was over.

So, a very long time ago, these special gifts became obsolete because the Word was complete. In other words, anyone since then who studies the Holy Bible can understand all that he or she must do to please the heavenly Father and attain Heaven. Unfortunately, that doesn’t mean all governments allow people to read the Bible.

STEPS OF FAITH

Although not everyone agrees that I Corinthians 13:10, refers to the duration of spiritual gifts, the passing of gifts to others ended when the last Apostle died; that was probably John. When the last person who received the gifts died, gifts ended.

The Church Chapter 8

INTRODUCTION: Many people feel the need to worship God. Christians recognize the need to worship God in the company of an assembly of believers. Jesus Himself said that believers must worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). The only church we can be certain is acceptable to God is the one Jesus founded (I Cor. 3:11) and that was purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28; I Pet.1:19). It would be impossible to separate His church from the thousands of impostors without a blueprint of God's design for it. This lesson and the next several lessons will help the student develop a Bible-based view of God's church as it existed in New Testament days.

I. What is the church?

- A. Is the church a building made with human hands (Acts 5:11; 11:22; 17:24)?

_____ Based on these scriptures, how do we know that it is not a building?

- B. Brief Greek lesson: *EKKLESIA* meaning "called out" is translated "church" in the New Testament (Gal.1:1-3) (W.E. Vine, p. 86).

- C. How is the word "church" used in the New Testament?

1. Church = the _____ of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23; Col.1:18).
2. Church = those who b_____ in Jesus as the Messiah and o_____ His Words (Acts 5:14; Mark 16:15-16; Heb. 5:8-9; John 14:15).

- D. What is the church called out of?

1. Out of _____ into _____ (I Pet. 2:9).
2. Out of _____ into _____ (John 8:32-34).

II. Nature of the calling:

STEPS OF FAITH

A. Who does the calling (I Pet. 5:10; II Tim. 1:7-9)? _____

B. How are we called (Rom. 1:16; II Thes. 2:13-14)? _____

C. We are called into _____ (I Cor. 1:9; Col. 3:15)

D. The calling is _____ (II Tim. 1:9).

E. We are called to be _____ (I Pet. 1:14-16; Heb. 3:1).

F. How can those who are called and obey the calling still be lost? (II Pet. 1:10; Heb. 6:4-6; Jam. 5:19-20)? _____

G. Paul's calling:

1. Paul was specifically called by _____ to be an _____ to the _____ (Acts 9:10-16; I Cor. 15:7-9; Acts 26:16-18).

2. At what point was Paul saved? (Acts 2:38; 9:6; 22:12-16; Rom. 1:16; 10:16)

Ans. Paul was saved when _____. Circle the correct choice.

- a. God decided to choose him c. Ananias preached to Paul.
b. Paul prayed fervently d. Paul obeyed and was baptized.

3. The phrase "calling on _____" in Joel 2:32 and in I Cor. 1:2,

refers to calling on His name when an obedient person is _____ (Acts 2:16-21, 38; Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:45). Can anyone be saved by just calling on the Lord without obeying The Lord (Matt. 7:21; Luke 6:45)?

Explain. _____

4. Like Paul, we are saved when we _____ the word of God (Acts 15:16-17).

III. Discuss the following commonly believed sayings in light of the scriptures:

STEPS OF FAITH

- A. "The Holy Spirit draws selected people to Christ apart from the Word of God, the Bible." Is this true or false? Before you answer, consider Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; and other verses in the Bible. Always avoid the "I thinks" because we will be judged by the Word of God, not some person's opinion (John 12:48).

Ans. _____

- B. "Paul was saved on the road to Damascus." True or false - circle one. Why? Which Bible verses support your position (a good concordance, such as Young's or Strong's, helps Bible students locate verses).

Ans. _____

- C. When some people say "I want to be saved like Paul," they imply that Paul was saved when Jesus appeared to him. Why is this an error?

Ans. _____

- D. Can we be "saved like Paul" if we do the things Paul did? Explain.

Ans. _____

The Church as Fulfillment of Prophecy Part I Chapter 9

INTRODUCTION: To correctly identify the Lord's church, we must discover when and where it began. A church established in another time or at another place could then be eliminated as the Lord's church. After that, we must examine the manner in which the Lord's church conducted its service, and the duties of the members to God, fellow members, and to the world. Once we understand these things, we are able to compare

STEPS OF FAITH

various religious groups that claim allegiance to Christ with the Bible standard, the only acceptable standard, to discover the Lord's church.

- I. "But when the _____ of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Gal. 4:4). God set the stage of the world for the arrival of His Son and for His Son's church.

A. Historical setting:

1. The world had a language generally understood by the civilized people
- Koine Greek.
2. A system of writing had developed.
3. Good roads were available with better protection for travelers than found in earlier times.
4. A strong central government existed capable of:
 - a. Enforcing a degree of peace;
 - b. Permitting religious freedom for several years.
5. Populations enjoyed sufficient prosperity so that they had time to study and evaluate new ideas.
6. Paganism rampant. In paganism, gods are given the weaknesses of mankind; whereas, in Christianity, mankind is challenged to strive to attain the perfection of God.

B. Workers who prepared the world for God's kingdom:

1. _____ went in the _____ and _____ of Elias to make ready a _____ prepared for the Lord. (Luke 1:17; Mark 1:2-3).

2. John preached _____ and _____ for the _____ of heaven is at hand. (Matt. 3:2)

3. God sent John the Baptizer. How does he compare to Jesus (John 3:30)?

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

4. Was John in the kingdom? (Matt. 11:11) _____
5. Was John the Baptizer a Christian? _____ Why or why not? Ans. _____

6. Did John, an apostle of Christ, or John the Baptizer write the book of John (Matt. 4:21; Luke 1:12-80, esp., vs. 63, 67, 76, 77; Matt. 14:1:1-12)?
Ans. _____

7. Jesus said the _____ of heaven is _____ (Matt. 4:17).
8. Jesus promised to build His _____ (Matt. 16:18).
9. The _____ would come with _____ while some people listening to Jesus were still alive (Mark 9:1).
10. Christ told His apostles to preach the _____ was at _____ (Matt.10:7).
11. At the _____ of Jesus the disciples still did not really understand the nature of the _____ (Luke 19:11;22:18; Mark 15:43).
- C. If the church was established before Christ's death, then it was established:
1. Before Christ could be preached (Matt. 16:21);
 2. Under subjection to the law of Moses since it was still in effect (Rom. 7:4; Heb. 10:1,8-12,15-20);
 3. Before repentance and remission of sins could be preached in His name (Luke 24:46-49);
 4. Christ was its Head (Eph. 1:20-22);
 5. Christ was reigning on His throne (Acts 2:30-31; I Pet. 3:22);

STEPS OF FAITH

6. Christ became High Priest (Heb. 8:4;2:14, 17-18);
7. Christ became the Mediator of a new covenant (Heb. 9:15-17).
8. Therefore, the _____ was not established during the earthly life of Jesus. Could Jesus have been a Christian? _____
Why or why not?

Ans. _____

- II. The church, or kingdom, was established and ready for citizens after what happened?
_____ (Acts 1, esp., vs. 1).

- A. The Lord's kingdom was to start in what city (Isa. 2:2)?

B. The law was to go forth from what city (Isa. 2:2; Luke 24:47)?

- C. Fulfillment of prophecy:

1. On _____, the law went forth from _____
(Acts 2:37, 38).

2. On what day was the kingdom prepared for citizens? (Acts 2:1-4).

3. In what city did the first citizens enter the kingdom when it was preached? (Acts 2:5) _____

- D. Christ said the kingdom would come with _____ (Mark 9:1).

1. The _____ was to come with the _____
_____ (Acts 1:8).

2. On what day did the Holy Spirit come upon the apostles? _____
(Acts 1:26; 2:1-4).

- E. Following Pentecost, the church or the kingdom is in existence. Confirm

STEPS OF FAITH

or deny this statement after studying the following references: Acts 2:47; 5:21; 8:1; 11:22; 13:1; 14:27; Hebrews 12:28; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9. Explain.

III. Questions to consider:

- A. What do "Peter" and "rock" mean in Koine Greek in Matthew 16:18
(Look up the Greek words used and their meanings in a Greek lexicon)?

Ans. _____

- B. When and where were repentance and remission of sins first preached in
Jesus' name?

Ans. _____

- C. How was remission from sins obtained?

Ans. _____

The Church as Fulfillment of Prophecy Part II Chapter 10

INTRODUCTION: We can know the Bible came from God. First, it claims to come from God (II Pet. 1:20-21). Another important reason we have this confidence comes from the fulfillment of prophecy. Men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit predicting events that would occur years, even centuries, in the future (II Pet. 1:21). These events were not predicted in general terms; rather, they were predicted so specifically that a student of the Bible could know precisely the course these events would take by reading the writings of God's teachers. We see the division of Israel foretold (I Kings 9:2-78; 11:6-13; and 12:20-25). We also see the captivity of Israel foretold (Jer. 25, 52). Predictions about Jesus and the church were also mentioned by the Old Testament prophets centuries before they were to occur. Religious Jews of Jesus' day should have been familiar with these prophecies and expected their

STEPS OF FAITH

Messiah. They should have even anticipated the spiritual nature of the kingdom that Jesus, the Messiah, would establish.

I. Isaiah:

- A. When was the church to be established (Is. 2:2-3; Heb. 1:1-2; Acts 2:16-17)?

- B. The Lord's house is like a _____ (Is. 2:2).

The Lord's house is also called _____

_____ (I Tim. 3:15).

- C. Who may enter the church (Is. 2:2; Matt. 28:19; Eph. 2:14-16;

Acts 10:48)? _____

- D. From what city would the Law (= the Word of the Lord) go forth?

(Isaiah 2:3; hint: Zion = Jerusalem) _____

II. Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2):

- A. Who was the "head of gold" in the king's dream? (Dan. 2:1,37-38)

_____ This kingdom fell in 536 B. C. when Cyrus of Persia and Darius of Media overthrew it.

- B. Cyrus and Darius established the Medo-Persian kingdom. What did God

say about its fate (Dan. 2:39)? _____

- C. Alexander the Great established the kingdom of b_____. He died in 323 B.C. After conquering the known world, he thought there was nothing left to conquer, and lost the most important battle of his life when he died a drunken man. His kingdom was then divided.

- D. The Roman Empire was represented in the dream as the kingdom

of _____ (Dan. 2:40).

STEPS OF FAITH

- E. "In the days of these _____" (Dan. 2:44) refers to the Roman Caesars.
- F. God's kingdom (which is the church discussed in later lessons) was to be established after the Roman Empire began and while it existed. The Roman Empire started about 30 B. C. and fell in about 476 A. D.
- H. If the kingdom that God planned began between these dates in Dan. 2:44, how could a Kingdom (or church) founded during another period of time be God's kingdom?

Ans. _____

- I. How many kingdoms did God intend to establish (Dan. 2:44)?

Ans. _____

- J. Jesus was born during the reign of _____ (Luke 3:1-2).

- K. Read Luke 21:31-32; 22:16-19,29-30. Jesus taught that the kingdom would come during the _____ of some of His followers. (Mark out the wrong choice.)

1. During the lifetime
2. in a few thousand years after the death

- L. In Colossians 1:13, Paul says that we are _____ into the kingdom of God. Logically, a person cannot enter something unless it exists; therefore, the kingdom must have existed in Paul's day.

The Church as God's Kingdom Part I Chapter 11

INTRODUCTION: Premillennialists, teaches that the kingdom of God has not arrived. Other religious groups teach that the kingdom exists on earth now. There is little agreement among so-called Christians about the kingdom's origin, nature, or its reason for existence. In addition, religious groups are divided over the relationship of the kingdom to the church. It is important to remember that a valid religious teaching never

STEPS OF FAITH

contradicts other teaching found in the Bible. Properly divided, God's Word anticipates and answers all important religious questions.

I. Institutions that Christ built:

- A. What two institutions did Christ place on earth (Matt. 16:18-19)? He built the _____ and the _____.
- B. These verses in Matthew 16:18-19 state that Jesus gave the "keys of the _____" to the apostles.
- C. In Acts 2:37-38, the apostles bound _____ and _____ for remission of sins on people who heard and believed the gospel. They used the keys of the kingdom to open the _____ (Acts 2:47).
- D. Jesus placed two items of "furniture" prominently in His kingdom, a _____ and _____ (Luke 22:29-30).
- E. What elements are placed on the Lord's table (Matt. 26:26-29)?

This reference indicates that these elements are in the kingdom.
- F. When Paul wrote to the _____ (I Cor. 1:2), he placed the same elements used by Jesus in the _____ (I Cor. 11:18-29).
- G. Jesus said He would not eat again with the apostles until He ate or drink with them in the _____ (Luke 22:29-30).
- H. After the resurrection, on what occasion did Jesus eat or drink with the apostles? (Acts 10:41; Luke 24:43; John 21:13-15)

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

- I. Jesus said we could not enter the kingdom unless we were born of _____ and the _____. (John 3:3)
- J. When we enter the church, we are born of the _____ and the _____ (I Pet. 1:23; Rom. 8:26-27).
- K. These references indicate that the kingdom and the _____ are the same.

The Church as God's Kingdom Part II Chapter 12

INTRODUCTION: The elements placed in the kingdom of God were also placed in the Church. In addition to these elements, a kingdom should have a territory, king, throne, subjects, and a law. If these elements are also common to the church, then we can say kingdom and church are the same thing.

I. The kingdom:

A. Nature of the kingdom:

1. God promised a _____ for the Son of Man (Dan. 7:13-14).
2. The term "Son of Man" refers to _____ (Matt. 26:24).
3. Where is the territory of Christ's kingdom (John 18:36; Luke 17:20-21)? _____
4. Was Jesus expecting or desiring an earthly kingdom (John 6:14-15; 18:36)? Explain.

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

5. When was the kingdom established (Matt.25:34; Luke 22:15,18; 24:30; Heb.4:3)?

Ans.: The kingdom was established from the _____

6. When was the kingdom ready for people to enter (Mark 9:1; Matt. 16:16-19)?

Ans. _____

B. The King:

1. Who is the King of this kingdom (Zech. 9:9; 14:9; Matt. 2:2; Acts 32-36; I Pet. 3:22)? _____

2. How much authority does this King possess (Matt. 28:18)?

3. How long will He reign (Dan. 7:13-14; Luke 1:33; Cor. 15:24-28)?

C. Christ's throne:

1. God called Jesus "God" and said that His throne would last _____
_____ (Heb. 1:8).

2. God said that a descendent of _____ could never sit on David's throne (Jer. 22:30; 36:30-31).

3. This must have been the literal _____ of David. We know from Exercise 1, part I, B, 8, that the phrase "throne of David" can also refer to the position of monarch and the authority that accompanies such a duty.

4. _____ is the other name for Coniah (I Chron. 3:16).

STEPS OF FAITH

5. Although _____ was in the lineage of Jesus, we know that Jesus sits on David's throne (Matt. 1:11; Acts 2:29-32). Therefore "throne" must signify the position and authority rather than the seat David occupied.
6. When did Jesus assume this prominent position (Isaiah 11:1,2,10; Rom. 15:8,12; John 2:19-21; Matt. 28:5-6)?

When He was _____.

D. Territory of the kingdom:

1. A king normally resides in the territory he rules. If that is true in Christ's kingdom, where is its territory (Eph. 3:17)?

Ans. _____

2. Who shall inherit the kingdom of Christ (Dan. 7:22,27; Matt. 25:31-40)?

Ans. _____

E. Subjects of the kingdom:

1. Who are the subjects of the kingdom (Matt. 12:50; Rev. 22:7)?

Ans. _____

2. How do we enter this kingdom and become citizens (John 3:3,5; Acts 2:38)?

Ans. _____

3. How can citizens achieve a place of prominence in Christ's kingdom

(Matt. 20:20-28)? Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

F. The law of the kingdom:

1. Is there a law in the kingdom (John 14:15, 21; 15:10)? _____
2. It is called the law of _____ (Rom. 3:27).
3. Citizens are justified by their _____ to this law (Rom. 1:5; 2:13).
4. Who foretold this law (Micah 4:1-2)? _____
5. From what city was the law was to go forth (Micah 4:2)?

6. What is the other name of this city (Micah 4:8)?

Ans. _____

7. What law went out from this city (Acts 2:37-39)?

Ans. _____

8. What additional commandment did Christ give us (John 13:34)?

Ans. _____

9. In what way was this commandment new (John 15:13; I John 3:16)?

Ans. _____

10. What kind of attitude must a believer have to enter the kingdom (Mark 10:15; Acts 2:37)?

Ans. _____

11. Do citizens of this kingdom behave like everyone else? Explain. (I Cor.

STEPS OF FAITH

10:5-10; I Tim. 2:9; Tit.2:14; I Pet. 2:9; Heb. 4:12)

Ans. _____

G. The kingdom is here!

1. Just before His crucifixion, Jesus promised He would not _____
or _____ with His apostles until He did so in the _____
(Mark 14:25; Luke 22:16-18).
2. After Jesus was crucified and raised, did He do these things (Luke 24:36-43;
John 21:1-15; Acts 10:37-41)? Explain.

Ans. _____

3. We must conclude that the _____ was on earth before Jesus' final ascension into Heaven as recorded in Mark 16, Luke 24, John 21, and Acts 1, but it was not ready for citizens until the Apostles used the keys of the kingdom to open it in Acts 2.

The Church as the Family of God Chapter 13

INTRODUCTION: We could not have imagined the great love God has for us until His Son left Heaven to suffer on earth and die for us. Through the death of Jesus, we can be reunited with God and reclaim what was lost in Eden. The Godhead has provided the church to proclaim and show the love of God to mankind, and to point the way to Heaven for all who will listen and obey. To help us understand this love, God gave us families. Parents love their children; children love parents; grandparents love parents and children and receive love back. This doesn't even consider that those able provide food, shelter, clothing and other necessities for those they love. God provides a way for people to become His children. As a loving parent, God has made special provisions for His children as well. This Heavenly Father is an all-knowing, all-powerful ruler of the universe.

I. The church is God's family:

- A. In Bible times, the term *house* did not only mean the building where a

STEPS OF FAITH

family lives. It was often a substitute for the word _____ (Josh. 24:15; Luke 1:27; Heb. 11:7; Acts 10:2).

- B. The _____ is the house or family of God. (I Tim. 3:15)
- C. God is the _____ (Eph. 3:14; Matt. 23:9; I Cor. 8:6).
- D. Christ is the _____ (Heb. 3:6; I John 4:9).
- E. Christians are the _____ of _____ (I John 3:1; John 1:21).
 - 1. _____ of God (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 3:26;4:7).
 - 2. _____ of God (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:7).

II. Blessings of being an heir and of adoption (Gal. 3:29):

- A. The privilege to _____ to God our Father (Matt. 6:9).
- B. God's _____ is freely given to His children (I John 3:1).
- C. Christ is our _____ (Heb. 4:14-16; 10:21; I John 2:1).
- D. The _____ leads us and helps our infirmities (Rom. 8:26, 14; Gal. 5:16; 4:6).
- E. Who provides Fatherly provisions for Christians (Rom. 8:32; Jam. 1:17; Matt. 6:8, 33-34; 7:7-11)? _____
- F. Christians have the blessing of God's _____ (Phil.4:5, 7).
- G. "... An _____ incorruptible... reserved in Heaven for you" (I Pet.1:4).

III. Obligations of family membership:

- A. _____ from the world (II Cor. 6:17, 18; 7:1; I John 2:15-17; Jam. 4:4).
- B. God requires _____ (I John 5:3; I Pet.1:14; Eph. 5:6; Rom. 6:16-18, 12, 13; Matt. 7:21).

STEPS OF FAITH

C. We must _____ the brethren (I John 4:20-21; John 13:34-35).

D. Whose name should God's children wear (Acts 11:26; I Pet.4:16)?

IV. How do we become God's children? (I John 5:1-3)

A. _____ must be planted (Luke 8:11). That occurs when one _____ (Rom. 10:14) the _____ of Christ (Rom. 1:16).

B. _____ (Heb. 11:6; Gal. 3:26).

C. _____ (Acts 17:30; 2:38).

D. _____ of _____ (Rom. 10:9-10; 8:37).

E. _____ (Matt 28:19; Rom. 6:3-7; Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:38).

F. When we have done these things we are in Christ and become a new

_____ (II Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:3,4ff), ready to accept the blessings of an heir and the responsibilities that are part of being a member of the family of God.

V. Consider and discuss the following. When possible, use a concordance to give the book, chapter, and verse that validates your answer.

A. How can we be in the world but not of the world (John 17:16)?

_____ (Rom. 12:1-2).

B. How many families has the Heavenly Father established? (Eph.3:15)

C. As far as we know, only God's _____ are heirs of the Father (Eph. 1:5-10).

D. How many churches are in the family? (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23) _____

STEPS OF FAITH

E. As members of the family, what characteristic(s) set Christians apart from the world?

(Eph. 4:17-32; Col. 3:1-17)_____.

F. How can love be expressed in the family? (1 Jn. 3:18)_____.

G. How should we show our regard for those out of the family?

(Matt. 5:43-48; Rom. 10:1, 16)

VI. Questions for discussion:

- A. Can we love those outside of the family the same as we love family members? Apply this to the church.
- B. What are four causes of trouble in the family of God? (If you can't think of any read the two books to the Corinthians.)
- C. How can we avoid these problems or solve them after they surface?

The Church as the Body of Christ Chapter 14

INTRODUCTION: Some people tells us that we can be saved in the church or out of it; in other words, it does not matter if we are part of a church, Christ's church, or even if we attend worship service. God tells us through the apostle Paul that the church is the body of Christ (Col. 1:18). Logically, if we can be saved out of the church as some people say, then we can be saved out of Christ. However, God says that salvation is in Christ (II Tim. 2:10). We can resolve the conflict if we remember that we are justified by faith in God (Gal. 2:16); we are not justified by faith in the wisdom of the world (I Cor. 2:12-13; 3:19). We must study to avoid being led astray (II Tim. 2:15).

I. The church as a singularity:

- A. There is _____ body (Rom. 12:4; Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18).
- B. The body has _____ members (Rom. 12:4-5; I Cor. 12:12, 20, 27).

STEPS OF FAITH

- C. Christ's body is His _____ (Eph. 1:22-23).
- D. _____ and _____ are reconciled in _____ body (Eph. 2:16).
- E. There is one body (Rom.12:4). That body is the _____ (Eph. 1:23); therefore, there is only _____ church.
- II. Who is the head of the body (Eph. 5:23-25)? _____
- A. The _____ are in the body (Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47).
- B. We are _____ unto God through Christ in His body (II Cor. 5:18; Eph. 2:16).
- C. S_____ and e_____ I_____ are in Christ (II Tim. 2:10; I John 5:11).
- D. We _____ God in the church (Eph. 3:20-21).
- E. Christ is the _____ of the body (Eph. 3:20-21).
- III. Obligations of membership:
- A. We must strive for _____ and _____ in the body (I Cor. 12:24-25).
- B. _____ and _____ for each other (I Cor. 12:25-27).
- C. We must _____ (I Cor. 12:14-19).

The Church as the Bride of Christ Chapter 15

INTRODUCTION: In the Old Testament, the Spirit inspired Isaiah to compare the Lord's people to a bride (Isaiah 49:18-22). Here the Spirit compared the church to a bride and Christ to a bridegroom. God's love for the children of Abraham (Jer. 31:2-4) and for the church (Eph. 5:25; Rev. 1:5-6) illustrates His patience and leadership, and confirms the deity of Christ. This love carried Jesus from heaven to earth where those

STEPS OF FAITH

He came to save killed Him. Yet by His death and His resurrection, Christ opened the door of salvation for His beloved bride and displayed the great love wherewith God loves us.

- I. The inspired writers of the Old Testament used the illusion of a bride and a marriage to describe the relationship between God and His chosen people.
 - A. The Spirit asks a “Can a maid forget her _____, or a bride her _____?” Then He says “Yet my people have forgotten me days without number” (Jeremiah 2:32).
 - B. In Jer. 3, Judah and Israel, the divided Kingdom, was likened to a wife who had become a _____ (Jer. 3:1).
 - C. What did Judah and Israel do that angered the Lord (Jer. 5:25, 31)?

Ans. _____

- D. The Lord _____ divorce (= putting away) (Mal. 2:16); yet He divorced Judah and Israel (Jer. 3:8).
- E. Why did God want to divorce His people? (Jer. 3:13)

Ans. _____

During Jeremiah’s time, Babylon conquered the Lord’s people and carried them off to slavery. Later, Syria defeated Babylon. Before the Babylonian captivity, Jeremiah had prophesied the return of the captives to Israel (Jer. 25:12). When Cyrus came to power, he allowed the Hebrews to begin returning to their land.

STEPS OF FAITH

F. After the people returned from slavery, for a time they did better; what happened after that? (Ezra 10:10-12; Mal. 1:6-10; 3:7)

Ans. _____

II. In the New Testament, God's loved followers as a bridegroom loved his bride.

A. Matthew records Jesus as comparing Himself to a _____ (Matt. 9:15; Mark 2:19; Luke 5:34).

B. In the parables of the kingdom spoken by Christ just before His death,

Jesus likened himself to a _____ (Mt. 25:5).

C. The _____ may represent those who love the bridegroom (Matt. 25:1).

D. We are told that when the bridegroom arrived, some were prepared and some were not (Matt. 25). Which group knew when the bridegroom would arrive? (Matt. 25:13)

Ans. _____

E. When will Christ return (Matt. 24:36)? Ans. _____

F. John speaks of Christ as the bridegroom and says that he has a

_____ (John 3:29).

G. John tells us in Revelation 21:2 that he saw the new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. In Rev.

21:9-10, he tells us that bride was the _____.

H. John tells us that that the Lamb's (= Jesus') wife prepared herself by dressing in

fine linen (Rev. 19:6-8). That "linen" is actually the _____ of the saints (Rev. 19:8).

STEPS OF FAITH

I. The Spirit and the bride invite all who will to come and drink of the _____
_____ freely (Rev. 22:17).

III. Application of the illusion. Discuss.

A. What did God expect from those who were His people in Old Testament time?

Ans. _____

B. If we can assume the bride is the church and the Bridegroom is Jesus Christ, what words of caution do the scriptures offer Christians (Consider Matt. 25)

Ans. _____

C. Discuss what similarities exist between what the Lord required under the Law of Moses and under Christ's law.

D. The apostle Paul identifies the bride as a virgin espoused to Christ by the word "you" (II Cor. 11:2). The "you" refers to the church that Paul had addressed in the first verse of the book (II Cor. 1:1). In Revelation chapters 21 and 22:1-5, John is telling us about the church or Heaven using figurative language.

E. Complete the following chart and decide for yourself if these chapters describe the church or Heaven or both.

STEPS OF FAITH

Evidence that Suggests Revelation 21 and 22 Refers to the Church		
Common Element/Location	Comparable Reference	Revelation Reference
Bride =	II Cor. 1:1; 11:2	Rev. 21:2,9
	Isa. 60:19 (describes the church established by Christ)	Rev. 21:23
	Isa. 60:3,5; 66:12	Rev. 21:26

The Purpose of the Church Chapter 16

INTRODUCTION: God had a plan for the church from the beginning of the world; He had a reason for building it (Eph. 3:9-12). Human traditions must not subvert the purpose of the church. The church was not established to:

1. Be an entertainment center for the young or elderly,
2. Run the government or a business,
3. Function as a health or welfare agency in the physical sense.

Rather, the church has its God-given work: preaching the gospel to the lost world (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Thess. 1:8), spiritual edification of the members (Eph. 4:16) and benevolence (Gal. 6:10).

I. Preaching the gospel to bring the lost to Christ:

- A. At the Final Judgment, what will happen to those whose names are not found in God's book of life (Luke 13:26-28; Rev. 21:12-15)?
-

B. The great commission (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:14-16):

1. The great commission was given to the _____ (Matt. 28:16).
2. Who must be taught? _____

STEPS OF FAITH

3. Who gave the great commission? _____
4. The church should teach the same gospel that the _____ taught.
(Gal. 1:7-12)

C. The church is the _____ and _____ of the
_____ (I Tim. 3:14-15).

D. "_____ have _____ and come short of the _____
of God" (Rom. 3:23).

E. "_____ is the _____ of God to _____"
(Rom. 1:16).

1. The Corinthians were saved by _____ (I Cor. 15:1-4).
2. Cornelius needed _____ spoken to him to be saved (Acts 11:14).
3. People are _____ by the gospel (I Cor. 4:15; I Pet. 1:23).
4. Jesus told Saul of Tarsus to go to _____ and there it would be told
him what he _____ do to be _____ (Acts 9:6-8).

II. Edification:

A. What does "edification" mean? _____

B. In what ways are Christians instructed to grow, or mature?

1. (II Pet. 3:8) _____ and _____
2. (II Thess. 1:3) _____ and _____
3. (Phil. 1:9) _____ and all _____
4. (James 4:7; I Pet. 5:8-10) Ability to _____
5. Rom. 12:12 (read this entire chapter, it is great!)

C. Admonitions:

STEPS OF FAITH

1. Define "admonition"

Ans. _____

2. "Be rooted and _____ in the _____
_____ " (Col. 2:6-7).

3. " _____ things which are above ..."
(Col. 3:1).

4. "... Desire _____
_____ (I Pet. 2:1-2).

5. "Be _____ in the Lord" (Eph. 6:10).

6. List five duties of a Christian (I Cor. 16:13-14).

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

D. What seven things hinder spiritual growth?

1. (II Thess. 2:22) _____

2. (I Tim. 6:9-11) _____

3. (I Pet. 2:1-2) _____

4. (Rom. 10:1-3) _____

STEPS OF FAITH

5. (Prov. 16:18) _____

6. (Heb. 5:11) _____

7. (II Tim. 1:13; 2:23) _____

E. What seven things promote spiritual growth?

1. (Tit. 2:1) _____

2. (Heb. 2:1-3) _____

3. (Jam. 1:22-25) _____

4. (I Tim. 5:6-9) _____

5. (Heb. 4:14-16) _____

6. (Phil. 2:1-4) _____

7. (Heb. 13:7-17) _____

III. Discussion questions:

- A. A child grows up, reaches maturity then he or she normally doesn't grow. Can the same be said for a Christian? Why or why not?
- B. Compare and contrast the responsibility of the church and the responsibility of the Christian in an individual's growth.

The Power of Faith Chapter 17

INTRODUCTION: without faith, the Christian way of life is reduced to an assemblage of philosophical principles, and Heaven moves beyond the reach of humanity. However, faith working in conjunction with love elevates the Christian belief above all earthly philosophies and brings us to the very door of Heaven. This faith is not another word for the belief in the existence of God, the Father, nor is it a synonym for a belief in the Father, Jesus, His only begotten Son, and the Holy Spirit. James 2:19 tells us that although the devils believe and even tremble, their belief does not motivate them to

STEPS OF FAITH

participate in the steps of faith (Jam. 2; Tit. 1:16). For this reason, their faith is dead (Jam. 2:26) and unprofitable for salvation. If our faith is a living faith, it must be a working faith; it motivates us to obey God. Some religious groups have erred from the word, fallen into Satan's trap, by separating faith and work. Faith that is not strong enough to work, is not strong enough to carry anyone to Heaven (Phil. 2:12).

I. Faith is a trusting, confident belief that God will fulfill all He has promised if we obey His word.

A. "Faith is the _____ of things hoped for, the _____ of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

B. Why were the gospel of Christ and His miracles recorded for us? (John

20:30-31) _____

C. After reading Hebrews 11 and I John 5:1-3, one could say that _____

_____ and obedience must go hand in hand. Can one of the three be separated from the other two and still be able to justify anyone?

_____ Explain. _____

D. Enoch pleased God (Heb. 11:15). How did Enoch do this? (Gen. 5:24;

Jude 14) _____ Where did Enoch

probably go when God took him? (Luke 23:43) _____

II. How faith comes:

A. Faith does not come through a miraculous operation of the Holy Spirit upon the heart of selected men and women, if it did, God would be a

_____ of persons (Acts 10:34).

B. Bible evidence for the origin of faith:

1. "These things are _____ that ye might _____"
(John 20:30-31).

2. We believe in Christ through the _____ of the Apostles (John 17:20).

STEPS OF FAITH

3. Faith comes from _____ the word of God (Rom. 10:17).
4. _____ produced faith (Acts 8:12).
5. _____ were spoken to Cornelius before he was saved (Acts 10; 11; esp. 11:13-14).
6. The devil realizes that the _____ of God is the basis of faith; therefore, he tries to steal it from the heart (Luke 8:11-12).

III. Faith is important:

- A. " _____ it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6).
- B. _____ in Christ, we will die in our sins (John 8:24).
- C. Man's heart is _____ by _____ (Acts 15:9).
- D. Man is _____ by faith (Rom. 5:1).
- E. Christians walk by _____ (II Cor. 5:7).
- F. Christians live by _____ (Gal. 2:20).

IV. Confession of faith in Christ precedes baptism.

- A. Why must we believe in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10; John 12:42-43)?

Ans. _____

- B. When we confess our belief in Christ, our faith, what will He do for us? (Matt. 10:32-33).

Ans. _____

- C. The Ethiopian eunuch confessed (faith in Christ, his sins) to Phillip before he was baptized (Acts 8:36-39). (Cross out the wrong answer.)

STEPS OF FAITH

V. Questions for consideration:

A. Why doesn't faith alone save anyone eternally? (Jam. 2:24) Ans. _____

B. Name 5 things that justify us.

1. Rom. 3:24 _____

2. Rom. 5:1 _____

3. James 2:24 _____

4. Rom. 5:9 _____

5. Acts 13:39 _____

C. Consider Abraham, was he justified by faith (Rom 4; Heb. 11), or by works (Jam. 2)? Is God contradicting Himself in His word? (Hint: see II above). Explain.

Ans. _____

D. How are we "obedient to the faith" (Rom. 1:5)? (Hint: consider Rom. 1:16). Romans is more easily understood if the student remembers that the first eleven chapters of this wonderful book compare and contrast the Law of Moses, (= the Jewish system) with the Law of Christ, the system of faith, and establish that all, both Jew and Gentile, need grace found in the Law of Christ. Gal. 2:21; 3:12-3-14 is a good commentary on the first part of Romans.

Ans. _____

The Good Confession Chapter 18

INTRODUCTION: In the plan of salvation, Christ is elevated to His rightful position in the life of the believer. Hearing produces belief, this belief or faith motivates us to confess the name of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, our Savior, in a public manner.

STEPS OF FAITH

We are not confessing sins generally or specifically. Instead, we are honoring Jesus and proclaiming His sovereignty in our life. We are publicly recognizing that Christ died for our sins. We were bought, ransomed from sin at a terrible cost! Our confession prepares us to fulfill the next step; we must apply His death to our sin in baptism (Rev. 1:5).

I. Commands and a promise:

A. What are we to confess at the time of our baptism? (Matt. 10:32)
(Check one)

1. Belief in Jesus (I John 4:15; Rom. 10:10). _____

2. Our sins (I John 1:9). _____

B. If we confess the name of Christ, what promise do we have? (Luke 12:8-9;

Rev. 3:5) _____

C. If we do not choose to confess while alive, what does the Bible guarantee?
(John 12:42-43; I John 4:3; II John 7)

II. Questions to consider:

A. Is the confession of our belief, our confidence, in Jesus limited to a single act done prior to baptism, or is this a daily confession as well?

B. After death, at Judgment, all will do what? (Rom. 14:11-12; Phil. 2:10-11)

C. Will this good confession made by sinners at Judgment after they have died (Rom. 14:11) save these sinners? _____ Why or why not?

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

The Importance of Repentance Chapter 19

INTRODUCTION: Repentance is a change of will caused by sorrow for one's sin. This change of will produces a change of life. Repentance begins after hearing the gospel and believing in Jesus Christ, but the reformation of a life to conform it to the spiritual values of God takes time to accomplish completely. It is a maturing process. God helps us mature through the Holy Spirit given at baptism (Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit works through the Bible to produce faith (Rom. 10:17); faith produces works (Gal. 5:6). Christ died for our sins (I Cor. 15:3). Thus, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and each one of us work together toward our salvation. We are privileged to be co-workers together with the Godhead. That is an honor that the ancients could not have imagined (I Pet. 1:8-12). Repentance is not sorrow for sin (II Cor. 7:10). Sorrow for sin precedes repentance. Reformation of one's life is the result of repentance (Matt. 3:7-8; Luke 3:7-14).

I. Repentance is a command:

- A. _____ taught us to repent (Matt. 4:17; Luke 13:3).
- B. _____ and _____ of _____ are preached in the name of Jesus (Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38).
- C. God _____ all men to _____ (Acts 17:30).
- D. _____ is necessary for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 3:19).
- E. Why should we repent (Acts 17:30-31; Rom. 2:5-11)?

Ans. _____

II. Examples of people who repented:

- A. The people of _____ (Matt. 12:41; Jonah 3:10).

STEPS OF FAITH

- B. The _____ who repented (Luke 23:39-43; John 21:15-17).
- C. The _____ (Luke 15:11-24).
- D. The Jews who heard Peter and the other apostles preach on the day of _____ (Acts 2).

III. Questions for discussion:

- A. Suppose a man stole your television, then later came and said he was sorry. He asked for your forgiveness, but he kept your television. What would this thief need to do if he really repented?

- _____
- B. A young person became addicted to illegal drugs. Soon after that, he learned about God's love and had the courage to become a Christian.

1. Is he still addicted to drugs or did baptism erase the addiction?

Ans. _____

2. Can he still use drugs or will he sin against God's law if he does? (Consider: John 8:34; I Cor. 16:15; Rom. 6:16; 16:13.)

Ans. _____

3. Is the body the temple of God (Find the book chapter and verse; hint: Paul wrote it to the church at Corinth)?

Ans. _____

3. Can a Christian continue to damage the temple of God and remain in God's favor? Why or why not?

4. After he is baptized, what must the youth do to remain in favor with God?

Ans. _____

5. If we are sick, why is it not wrong to take medication to regain health?

STEPS OF FAITH

6. Alcohol and tobacco are both _____.
7. How can a Christian recognize the difference between legitimate use and abuse of drugs?

Ans. _____

8. Although God is able to forgive past sins, we must still suffer the consequences of our sin. Does this fact negate God's love? Explain.

Ans. _____

- C. Suppose a man and woman marry. Later, one partner decides he or she is tired of marriage, or no longer loves the partner, and they divorce. There is no scriptural reason for the divorce (Matt.5:32). The man marries again, then decides to become a Christian.

1. What reason does Jesus give for divorce? _____
2. When one party breaks the marriage vows, which member(s) of the marriage can remarry?

Ans. _____

3. What command does God give a husband with respect to his wife (Eph. 5:25)?

Ans. _____

4. How should a wife feel about her husband (Titus 2:4)?

Ans. _____

5. Consider the woman described in Proverbs 31:10-31. How did she conduct her life?

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

6. How did her husband speak of her (Prov. 31:28-31)?

Ans. _____

7. There is an order in marriage. Who is the head of the marriage (I Cor. 11:3)?

Ans. _____

8. Is it proper for a husband to abuse his wife (Eph. 5:25)?
(Hint: Before you respond, consider how Christ relates to the husband and how the Father relates to Christ before you respond, and how the Church is like the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:20-33).

Ans. _____

9. God commands husbands to dwell with wives according to _____
(I Pet. 3:7).

10. In the light of what we have learned about marriage, explain what "knowledge" means.

Ans. _____

11. What warning does God give husbands in I Pet. 3:7?

Ans. _____

(Some other verses that deal with marriage are I Pet. 3:1-8, Rom. 7:1-3, I Cor. 7:27-40. Although this last reference deals with the distress at that place, general applications may be made).

Baptism: An End and a Beginning Chapter 20

INTRODUCTION: Baptism is the final step in the birth of a child into the family of God; here we become children of God (Rom. 8:14-16). Also, in baptism, we participate in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12). After we are baptized, God expects us to live a life of faithful service to God. If we are faithful

STEPS OF FAITH

children of God, after we die, we will ultimately join God the Father in Heaven. Then we can rejoice being at home in the presence of the love of God, since our trials on earth are over and our battles won.

I. What is baptism?

A. The Bible teaches:

1. Brief Greek lesson: *BAPTIZO* (translated baptize) means to dip, immerse, or submerge according to W. E. Vine (p. 98).
2. Baptism is a _____ in water (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12).
3. When Phillip baptized the eunuch, both went _____
_____ (Acts 8:38-39).

B. People say: one may be baptized by sprinkling, pouring or by immersion.

1. A.D.251, Noatian was "baptized" when someone poured water on him. (*The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*. vol. 1, pp. 288-289). This was the first recorded unscriptural baptism.
2. A.D. 1311, the Council of Reveena said that it was acceptable to substitute sprinkling and pouring for immersion (Thomas, Leslie G., *Restoration Handbook*, p. 36).

C. What does God say when people change His commands (Deut. 12:32; Matt.

15:8-9; Jude 3; Rev. 22:19) _____

II. Who may be baptized?

A. What God says:

1. H _____ precedes baptism (Matt. 28:19).
2. B _____ precedes baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12).
3. R _____ precedes baptism (Acts 2:38).
4. C _____ precedes baptism (Acts 8:36-38; Rom. 10:9).

STEPS OF FAITH

5. Infants and small children do not need baptism because they can not

b _____, r _____ or c _____.
They are safe in the love of God because they have not sinned; they do not know to do good or evil (Isa.7:14-16; 59:2; Ezek. 18:1-4, 20; Luke 18:16).

III. The purpose of baptism according to God:

A. Baptism is for the _____ of sins (Acts 2:38).

B. We are baptized:

1. To be _____ (Mark 16:16),
2. To put on _____ (Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3, 4),
3. To enter the _____ (John 3:3, 5),
4. Into _____ (Rom. 6:3),
5. To wash away _____ (Acts 22:16),
6. To be _____ (Col. 2:12),
7. To participate in the _____ of Christ (Rom. 6:4; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1-4).
8. To _____ the command of the Lord (Acts 10:48; Heb. 5:8-9; Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Rev. 22:14).

IV. What uninspired people say:

A. Origen said infants need baptism (Wall, William, pp. 205, 206).

B. The idea that sin is inherited is based on the false assumptions that are still common today (Tolle, James. *The One Baptism*, p. 37). It may also come from a misunderstanding of Romans 5:12-17 and Psalms 51:5 that comes from missing Eze.18:4. This philosophy says that:

1. Physical birth is sinful. (Remember, Jesus was also born; yet He was without sin (II Cor. 5:2).)
2. Water baptism eliminates the "sin" of birth and the "original inherited" sin of

STEPS OF FAITH

Adam. If "original inherited sin" were a true doctrine, then since Jesus was born of Mary, He would have inherited sin through Mary and could not then have been sinless. The Catholics proposed the idea of "immaculate conception" so Mary would not pass on the "inherited sin."

3. However, according to Eccl. 7:29; Isa. 59:1-2; Zech. 12:1; and Eze. 18:20, the concept of inherited sin is an error. When John baptized Jesus, Jesus was not dealing with His sin or Adams' sin, rather He was "_____ _____" (Matt. 3:13-17). Jesus knew no _____ (Isai. 53:5; II Cor. 5:20-21; Heb. 9:13-15); therefore, He could be the perfect _____ (I Peter 2:22-24; I John 3:4).

C. Man teaches:

1. Baptism is not necessary for salvation.
2. Small children must be baptized for original or inborn sin.
3. We may be baptized for people who died out of Christ. (This strange doctrine comes from a misunderstanding of I Cor. 15:29. This problem is considered in the appendix).
4. Baptism is not necessary for salvation but is necessary for obedience. (This brings up the obvious question: is obedience necessary for salvation; conversely, if we are not obedient, can we be saved?)

V. Questions for thought

A. Will baptism alone save anyone? _____ Why or why not? _____

B. What kind of baptism is mentioned by Paul in Ephesians 4:5?

Ans. _____

C. Explain I Peter 3:21.

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

D. In baptism, we contact what event that was unique in the history of the universe (Rom. 6: 1-5; Rev. 1:5)?

Ans. _____

E. What effect does baptism have on sins (Rev 1:5)?

Ans. _____

Church Activities: Prayer Chapter 21

INTRODUCTION: We are led to believe that trips, games and secular fun should be considered church activities. The Bible teaches us to love one another (I John 3:23) and enjoy friendship with other Christians (Romans 12:10); however, the most precious activity we share is our fellowship with the family of God in the faith. Specifically, this fellowship occurs during worship. The purpose of worship is not only to exalt God, but also strengthen Christians and draws them into a deeper partnership with the Godhead. In the past, God has found the worship offered by believers unacceptable because they did not worship properly (Lev.10:1-7; Amos 5:21-22; John 4:23-24). What is done in worship and how it is done is very important to God.

Today, we are able to recognize the church of the Bible by the elements of worship and by the attitudes displayed by the worshipers. The next five lessons will analyze scriptural worship and what it involves. Prayer, the first element, opens the door to the greatest power the Earth, or the Universe, will ever know; but it is a power that most Christians do not fully utilize.

I. Prayer was not intended to:

- A. Be an emergency cord pulled only in time of trouble,
- B. Inform God or scorn men (Luke 18:10-14),
- C. Serve selfish desires (James 4:3),
- D. Instruct the Lord (Exodus 32:31-33),
- E. Nullify or circumvent God's commands.

II. Prayer is made of words that we address to God the Father (Matt. 6:9).

- A. What must our attitude be when we pray?

STEPS OF FAITH

1. We must ask in _____ (Jam. 1:6; Matt. 21:22).
2. We must be _____ (I Pet. 3:12).
3. All prayers must be asked _____ to God's will (I John 3:22; 5:14; Luke 22:42).
4. We must _____ in the name of _____ (John 15:16).
5. We must have the right _____ for prayer (Jam. 4:3; I Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17).
6. We must have a _____ spirit (Matt. 6:14, 15).
7. We must _____ what we are saying (I Cor. 14:15).
8. We must always pray in the name of _____ (John 14:13; Col. 3:17; Rom. 1:8).

B. We may pray for specific things, then get up and work for them. Things prayed for:

1. _____ (Matt. 6:11; Gen. 3:19),
2. _____ (I Tim. 2:1, 2),
3. _____ (Jam. 1:5, 6),
4. For _____ (I John 1:9; 2:1,2; Matt. 6:12),
5. For _____ (Matt. 5:44),
6. For the _____ (Jam. 5:14),
7. For _____ (I Tim. 2:1, 2),
8. Relative to temptation:
 - a. _____ temptation (Matt. 26:14),
 - b. _____ in time of temptation (I Cor. 10:13),

STEPS OF FAITH

c. _____ from temptation (Matt. 6:13; II Pet. 2:9).

9. _____ for the _____ (Matt. 9:38; John 4:35),

10. _____ of the _____ (II Thess. 3:1,2; Eph. 6:19-20).

III. Role of the Godhead in prayer:

A. What is the role of God? (Rom. 8:14, 15; Eph. 4:6; Matt. 6:5-8)

B. _____ is our advocate with the _____ (I John 2:1-2; Heb. 4:14-16; Rom. 8:34).

C. The _____ helps our infirmities (Rom. 8:26; John 1:20).

IV. List four biblical positions for one who is praying to God. (Consider: I Kings 8:22-23; Matt. 6:5-8; 26:39; Acts 20:36; I Tim. 2:8).

V. We have a direct command to pray.

A. " _____ without _____ " (I Thess. 5:17,18).

B. Men ought always to _____ and not to _____ (Luke 18:1).

VI. We have an approved example of people praying:

A. _____ prayed (Luke 3:21; 6:12; 23:34; Matt. 14:23; 26:34-44; Mark 1:35; John 17).

B. _____ prayed (Acts 12:5).

C. The _____ are commanded to pray for the sick (James 5:14).

D. Pray _____ (James 5:16)

VII. How should we pray?

STEPS OF FAITH

A. Why shouldn't we pray to impress people? (Matt. 6:5-6; Luke 9:18)

B. Some people say that Christians need a "prayer partner". God supplied us with two, who are they (Rom. 8:26, 34) _____ and the

VIII. God gives two promises:

A. He promised us _____ (I John 2:25). God has kept this promise. We do have eternal life, but where we spend eternity is another matter.

B. God will do _____ if we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight (I John 3:22). However, we must ask properly (James 4:3) and ask without

_____ (James 1:6).

Church Activities: The Lord's Supper Chapter 22

INTRODUCTION: Many religious groups celebrate the Lord's Supper. Some use bread and water; others, wine and unleavened bread; still others use grape juice and unleavened bread. Some teach that the bread changes to the literal body of Christ and the fruit of the vine becomes His blood (Albert Barnes, *Notes on the New Testament, Matt.-Mark*, 1982, pp. 282-283). The religious world is very confused about this simple, loving rite. For those who seek to do God's will, the Holy Bible is a written standard that explains what the early Church ate and drank when celebrating the Lord's Supper, when they participated in this act and why it was done.

I. Origin of the Lord's Supper:

A. Who instituted the Lord's Supper? (Matt. 25:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-26) _____

B. When was it instituted? (I Cor. 11:23) _____

STEPS OF FAITH

- C. According to the theory of "transubstantiation", sacramental bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ in a miraculous way while keeping only the appearances of bread and wine (Merriam Webster's *Deluxe Dictionary*, Tenth Collegiate ed. 1998). Jesus said in Matt. 26:27-29 that the fruit of the vine was His blood shed for the remission of sins. Did the liquid in the cup literally become the blood or was this change in the spiritual sense? (Matt. 26:29) _____
-

Occasionally, Jesus used physical item to serve as a symbol for something spiritual as in John 10:9 when Jesus said He was a door.

- II. The elements of the Lord's supper:
- A. Jesus' body is symbolized by the _____ (Matt. 26:26).
- B. The _____ represents His blood (Matt. 26:28).
- C. There is no record of other elements being substituted by Christ's authority; in fact, Paul says that "...as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death _____" (II Cor. 11:26). It would seem that failure to use the same elements would fail to show the Lord's death.
- D. According to *Young's Analytical Concordance* (1970), the Greek term *oinos* was used for fermented wine as well as for grape juice that is unfermented in John 2:3-10, Luke 1:15, Eph. 5:18 and I Tim. 3:8 and others. However, the term used by Jesus for the drink at the Lord's table was *gennena*, which means "produce" according to Young. Thus, although we are commanded to use the "produce of the vine" by Jesus, based on these references many believe that local congregations may decide if fermented or unfermented grape juice is best depending on which one was available, the culture, and current medical opinion. Let's examine the matter farther:
- E. The wine and bread were part of the Jewish rite called the _____ (Exo. 12:6,18; Matt. 26:17-28).
- F. At that time all _____ had to be removed from the house (Exo. 12:18-20).

STEPS OF FAITH

G. Leaven is the result of the fermentation of yeast (Merriam Webster's Deluxe Dictionary); essentially the same process produces wine, fermented grape juice. If this is true, in light of Exodus 12:20, what type of "wine" should be used?

H. In addition to this inference, we are told that God condemns _____ (Prov. 23:21; I Cor. 5:11; 6:9-11).

G. Some brethren believe the entire congregation should drink from one cup.

Jesus Christ authorized _____ the fruit of the vine (Luke 22:16-22, esp. 17).

F. What kind of bread was used in the Lord's Supper:

1. What were the apostles and Jesus celebrating in the upper room (Mark 14:1)? _____

2. During this feast, what kind of bread was used (Mark 14:1; Exo. 13:3-7)?

III. Purpose:

A. We do this to show _____ (I Cor. 11:24).

B. The Lord's Supper is also celebrated in expectation of Jesus' _____ (Matt. 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:26).

C. What words of caution do the scriptures offer Christians (I Cor. 11:28-29)?
Ans. _____

D. The Lord's Supper proclaims a n_____ t_____ or new covenant (Matt. 26:28; I Cor. 11:25).

IV. When the Lord's Supper was observed:

STEPS OF FAITH

A. What day of our week was the Jewish Sabbath day (= seventh day) (Exo.

20:10)? _____ (Check a dictionary.) It lasted from _____ evening until _____ evening. The next day is the _____ day of the week.

B. Paul, an Apostle, said to do it on the _____ day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1,2).

C. How long should we continue to observe the Lord's Supper? (I Cor. 11:26; Acts 20:7)

D. How frequently should we take the Lord's Supper? (Acts 2:42; 20:7)

V. Who may partake?

A. They that were _____ including the Apostles (Acts 2:42).

B. The _____ gathered to break bread and listen to Paul (Acts 20:7).

VII. Terms used to designate the Lord's Supper:

A. Scriptural terms:

1. _____ (I Cor. 11:20)

2. _____ (Acts 2:42; 20:7)

3. _____ (I Cor. 10:16)

4. The _____ (I Cor. 10:21; Luke 22:29-30)

B. Unscriptural terms:

STEPS OF FAITH

1. "Eucharist", according to Webster this means gratitude. It comes from a the name God gave it through the Holy Spirit to the inspired authors of the Bible than to make up our own names.
2. "Sacrament" comes from a Latin word meaning "Oath of allegiance" joining with God, occurs during the first steps of faith that include baptism into Christ when we put on Christ, and culminates with a life that is lived in Christ.

VIII. Discuss:

- A. Why should we use biblical terms for biblical acts and events?
- B. Does the Lord's Supper include the offering? Why or why not?
- C. What is more important, the order of the bread and fruit of the vine, or the attitude of the disciples of Christ when they partake? (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:16-19).

Church Activities: Music Part I Chapter 23

INTRODUCTION: Religious groups generally agree that worship should include some form of music. The type of music, vocal, mechanical or a combination of the two is more controversial. Fortunately, a standard of authority is available to guide individuals who are seeking to do God's will, the Word of God.

I. Is some form of music necessary to worship God?

A. We should sing with our _____ (Heb. 13:15) making melody in our _____ (Eph. 5:19).

B. Paul wrote to the Church at Colossae saying that Christians should _____ and _____ one another in _____, _____ and _____ (Col. 3:16).

II. Attitude:

STEPS OF FAITH

A. How must we worship God (John. 4:23-24)? We must worship God in

_____ and in _____.

B. When we sing, we are offering a _____ of praise to God (Heb. 13:15).

C. In the past, God's people offered sacrifices of inferior quality to God (Mal. 1:7-14). How did God feel about such offerings? (Mal. 1:10)

D. How must we sing for it to be acceptable to God? (I Cor. 14:15)

E. Some people say "I can't carry a tune so I don't sing." Read Psalm 66:1 and following. How could you answer such a person?

III. Brief Greek lesson:

A. *Psallo*:

1. According to M. C. Kurfee (p. 16) *psallo* has had different meanings through time. For instance, this word has been used to mean:
 - a. To pluck hair,
 - b. To twang a bowstring,
 - c. To twitch a carpenter's line,
 - d. To touch the chords of a musical instrument in a way to produce music,
 - e. To sing, to touch the chords of the human heart, to celebrate with human praise.

2. The New Testament was written in Koine Greek, a form of Greek spoken for a very short time. During this time, *psallo* meant only 1e above, not 1a-d.

STEPS OF FAITH

B. In Ephesians 5:19, a form of *psallo* completes the thought of the verse.

IV. In light of this information, should we use an instrument of music when we sing in worship to God?

A. Yes, as long as that instrument is designated by God.

We _____ with our voice and make melody with our _____
(Eph. 5:19). The instrument we are commanded to use is our

_____.

B. Nadab and Abihu, two of Aaron sons, were priests (Ex. 28:1). They made an offering to God, one He had not commanded. What did God think of their offering? (Lev. 19:1-3)

C. What does this tell us about our offering of worship to God? (I Cor. 4:6; II John 9)

D. God said we should sing and make music with the _____
(Eph. 5:19); why can't we add another instrument to the service and still please God?

E. Mechanical instruments were not used until Pope Vitalian introduced organs in some Catholic Churches of Western Europe around A.D. 670 (*The American Encyclopedia*, vol. 12, p. 688).

STEPS OF FAITH

Church Activities: Music Part II Chapter 24

INTRODUCTION: Music is a very important part of worship but religious groups that claim to be Christian disagree on many aspects of music in worship such as whether music should be only vocal, vocal and instrumental, or primarily instrumental. For our worship to be acceptable to God, we must return to the Bible as our source of authority.

I. The purpose of music:

A. We are to _____ and _____ one another with _____ and _____ with grace in our hearts to the Lord (Col. 3:16).

B. We should offer a sacrifice of praise to God with the _____, giving thanks to His name (Heb. 13:15).

II. Considerations:

A. God has provided us all that pertains to _____ and _____ (II Pet. 1:3).

B. Some say that mechanical music adds to our faith. What is the biblical view? (Rom. 10:17)

III. Discussion questions:

A. Why can we have mechanical instruments of music in our homes but not in church?

Ans. _____

B. Why shouldn't we play religious music on mechanical instruments for entertainment and worship?

STEPS OF FAITH

Ans. _____

- C. Should we listen to religious, acappella music, on a recorder or CD player, television or radio? (Recall: a cappella is a Latin term that means *in the style of the church*, in other words, without instruments.)

Ans. _____

- D. If we feel a particular way is right, but there is no Bible command, inference or Biblical example of this should we make it a test of fellowship? Who is becoming the judge of the faith of others in such a situation?

Ans. _____

VIII. Finally, let's compare man's thoughts with God's commands

Man says:	God says:
Musical instruments were used in the Old Testament time (Amos 5:23).	Animal sacrifices were also used then (Exo. 29). Now hear Jesus (Matt. 17:5).
Harp is in Heaven, shouldn't they be used in the Church?	Incense is mentioned in Rev. 5:8, but God did not command the use of incense in worship and there is no example of the church using incense nor are we commanded to use incense (or musical instruments) in the New Testament.
Musical instruments make the singing sound better.	Our worship should please God, not humanity (Gal. 1:10).
The Bible does not say not to use mechanical instruments.	When God tells us what to use, or what to do all else is excluded. God told Noah to use gopher wood; He did not need to say "do not use oak or pine." Noah knew what God required.
Isn't a pitch pipe or tuning fork the same thing as an instrument?	A pitch pipe or tuning fork sets the pitch for a song leader, it is not part of the worship, nor does it accompany any part of the worship service.

STEPS OF FAITH

The Grace of Giving Chapter 25

INTRODUCTION: Giving is one way we are able to share our blessings with others. God loves us so much that He sent His beloved Son to die for us in order that we might live eternally with Him. Also, we can be assured that Jesus loves us because He gave up His glory to suffer humiliation, pain and death and open Heaven's door for us. Such love constrains us to share whatever we have with the Lord and with others. By giving, we provide the world with an example of our love for the brethren, and prove that our emphasis is not on earthly riches but spiritual wealth. Our generosity is a very important measure of our love. One old preacher, perhaps Brother Keeble, said "If you give 'til it hurts, you haven't been givin' enough. We gotta give 'til it feels good!"

I. The Lord cares about:

A. The giver's attitude:

1. I must not _____ money (I Tim. 6:10).
2. I must not _____ (Col. 3:5).
3. I must not _____ (I Tim. 6:17-19).

B. What God wants us to do with material possessions:

1. Christians are to support the work of the _____ (Eph. 4:28; II Cor. 9:7; I Cor. 16:1-2).
2. Christians are to support their _____ (I Tim. 5:8).
3. They are also to support their _____ (Rom.13:6-7; Matt. 17:24-27).

II. We can rob God!

A. How did God's people of old do this to God? (Mal. 3:8)

B. Why was God upset? (Mal. 3:9) _____

STEPS OF FAITH

- C. If they repented and obeyed God, He promised to open the _____ of Heaven and pour out a _____ that could not be held (Mal. 3:10).
- D. If we are not giving as we should, maybe we too have trying to _____ God (Mal. 3:8; Luke 6:38).

III. Authority for giving:

A. Direct command:

1. When are we to give money? (I Cor. 16:2)

2. How much are we to give? (I Cor. 16:2)

B. Approved examples of individuals sharing or giving:

1. The _____ gave liberally to the poor at Jerusalem (II Cor. _____)
2. _____ supported Paul and those working with him as he preached the gospel (Acts 16:15).
3. _____ made clothing for widows (Acts 9:39-42).
4. What did Paul give to God? (generalize) (II Cor. 11:23-42)

5. Stephen gave his _____ to God (Acts 7:59).

IV. Motives for giving:

- A. It is more _____ to _____ than to _____ (Acts 20:35).

B. Giving does certain things for us:

STEPS OF FAITH

1. It makes us more like _____ (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).
 2. It _____ we love God and the brethren (I Cor. 16:1-2; I John 5:2-3).
- C. We are _____ to give (I Cor. 16:1-2).
- D. If we give, it shall be _____ to us, not sparingly but abundantly (Luke 6:38; II Cor. 9:6).
- V. What should we give?
- A. The necessities of life such as _____
_____ (Matt. 10:42; Jam. 2:15-16,17; Luke 3:11; Matt. 25:35-46).
- B. Attention that shows love and concern for others (Matt. 25:35-40):
1. "I was a stranger and _____."
 2. "...I was sick and _____..."
 3. "...I was in prison and _____..."
- C. We should be like the _____ who gave _____ first to Christ (II Cor. 8:1, 3, 5).
- D. We should lay by as "_____". (I Cor. 16:2). We are prospered through the accumulation of money in this culture; therefore, we lay by money for the Lord's work. However, we should be prepared to help all, especially the household of God, as we are able through money, food, visits or whatever way is available to us (Gal. 6:10).
- VI. We are caretakers of another's possessions.
- A. Who owns everything (Exo. 19:5; Ps. 24:1; 50:10; I Cor. 10:26)?

- B. We are _____ of His possessions (I Pet. 4:8-10).

STEPS OF FAITH

C. Early Christians regarded giving as a _____ (II Cor. 8:4-7).

VII. There are, at least, three reasons for working:

A. To support _____ (Acts 20; II Thess. 3:7-11; I Tim. 5:3-11),

B. To _____ (Lev. 19:9; Mark 14:7; Eph. 4:28),

C. To support the preaching of the _____ (I Cor. 9:14; Phil. 1:5; 4:10-20; Gal. 6:6).

VIII. Discussion Questions:

A. We have been discussing the giving of money, what else should we

give? _____

B. Historically, Christians have shown a reluctance to pay their preachers. Why? What should be our attitude? (I Cor. 9:9-14+)

Church Activities: Teaching Chapter 26

INTRODUCTION: The religious world believes in teaching people. The subjects taught and the authority honored by the teaching are two areas of very little accord. Fortunately, the Lord has provided information about what should be taught, when to teach, and who should be taught. Initially, we understand from previous lessons that the Church is a group of individuals who love and obey Christ. In order to discover what the early Church was commanded to teach, it is necessary to study the Word. Here we see what these workers were told to teach and how they fulfilled their instructions.

I. What should be taught by members of the Church?

A. Jesus commanded the Apostles to teach people to observe "_____
_____. " (Matt. 28:20)

B. In Acts 2, Peter and the other Apostles taught about _____

(Acts 2:22-36; I Cor. 1:23).

STEPS OF FAITH

C. Again, in Acts 3:12-26, what was Peter's message? (Acts 4:2)

D. When the Apostles were thrown into prison, an angel of the Lord set them free and told them to speak to the people..." _____

_____ " (Acts 5:20).

E. Stephen recounted how God dealt with His people and the way His people reacted to God and His Son. Was Stephen's lesson entirely positive and inoffensive, or was he firm and to the point with his teaching? (Acts 7:51-53)

What happened to Stephen? (Acts 7:54-60)

Stephen was wrong to upset these people. Agree or disagree. Explain (Acts 7:54+).

F. What did Phillip preach? (Acts 8:35) _____
How do we know that Phillip spoke about what was necessary for salvation? (Acts 8:36-39)

STEPS OF FAITH

G. After Saul was converted, what did he preach? (Acts 9:20)

H. We are told by the inspired writers that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for _____, for _____, for _____, for _____, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

I. Paul encourages Titus to speak things that characterize _____

(Tit. 2:1).

J. Finally, Paul encourages Titus to _____, _____ and

_____ with all authority (Tit. 2:15).

II. Who do we teach?

A. Who were the Apostles commanded to teach? (Matt. 28:19)

B. In Acts 2, what group of people were taught the word of God? (Acts 2:5)

_____ What group of people were taught the Gospel in Acts 10?

(Acts 10:45) _____ (These two groups represent the two divisions of all the people on Earth.)

III. List five places where people taught the gospel. (Acts 8:27-39; Acts 10:22-23; 16: 13-15; 3: 2-6)

STEPS OF FAITH

IV. Some people say Bible classes are unscriptural because it is "wrong" to have more than one person at a time teaching. Read Acts 1:26; 2:1, 4, 6, 7 (12 Apostles spoke at once in many languages on Pentecost; Peter's words are recorded) and read Acts 5:25, then affirm or deny the teaching above.

V. Discuss:

A. How important is human philosophy in the teaching God's word?
(Consider Acts 17:22-34 (esp. v.28); I Cor.1:20-21; 2:13; I Pet. 5:11).

B. What kind of generally accepted philosophical statement be used as a point of agreement to start a religious discussion?

C. Name three other ways a religious discussion might be initiated with a person.

Church Activities: Benevolence Chapter 27

INTRODUCTION: Most religious people, those who believe they are Christians as well as some who do not, feel that people with the ability to help others in need should do what they can. Difficult circumstances, natural disasters, and wars provide abundant opportunities for all to demonstrate a benevolent attitude.

I. We see benevolence under the Law of Moses.

A. A field should lie fallow on the _____ year and the grains that came up should be available to _____ for food (Ex. 23:10-11).

STEPS OF FAITH

- B. When the Israelites harvested the fields, they were also supposed to leave the _____ for the poor (Lev. 19:10; 23:22).
- C. God gave the people a promise and a warning: He that giveth unto the poor shall _____; but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a _____ (Pro. 28:27).

II. In the New Testament we read more about what God commanded.

- A. In Matthew 19:16-21 and Mark 10:17-23, what did the young man want?

- B. In Matt. 19:21, the young man had obeyed the Law of Moses, but Jesus said he needed to do more. What two things did Jesus tell a wealthy young man to do?
1. _____
 2. _____
- C. Luke recorded Jesus saying: "Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, _____, and _____, and _____, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).
- D. In Acts 6, we see the Jewish widows from Greece are in the church, but in the course of events, they felt they were _____ in daily ministration (Acts 6:1).
- E. The apostles selected _____ men of _____ who were full of the _____ and _____ to see that the widows were not in need (Acts 6:3).

STEPS OF FAITH

F. What three things happened after this problem was solved (Acts 6:7)?

1. _____,
2. _____.
3. _____

(These three blessings may not have happened as a direct result of caring for the widows; however, since this verse follows the verses telling about the change in how those in need were helped, benevolence to the widows may have had a bearing.)

G. In II Corinthians 9: 6, Paul said that “he which soweth _____ shall reap also _____; and he which soweth _____ shall reap also _____.”

H. Paul was concerned about the _____ who were in need (Rom. 12:13)

1. Paul collected money from _____ and _____ for the relief of saints in _____ (Rom. 15:26).
2. Paul also urged the saints at _____ to help the needy saints at Jerusalem (II Cor. 1:1; 9:1-15).
3. According to Paul, what is more important than generosity? (I Cor. 13:3)

4. In Galatians 6:10, Paul urges the Christians who have the _____ to do good especially to those of the _____.

III. Benevolent work:

A. Give two reasons Christians are commanded to work (Eph. 4:28; II Thess. 3:10).

STEPS OF FAITH

1. _____

2. _____

B. What is considered "pure religion" (Jam.1:27)?

("Visit" here means more than just to stop by and say hello. It means to help them in their affliction.)

C. How did the early church conduct benevolent work (Acts 2:45; 4:34, 35; 11:27-30; Rom.15:25-28; II Cor.8:1-5, 9)?

D. Give book, chapter, and verse in the Bible that authorizes the church to use the service of a benevolent society or missionary society to do its work.

_____ (Hint: don't be surprised if you cannot find one.)

E. If it is not authorized, why do we find churches using societies?

F. What will happen to those who alter God's arrangement, or legislate in areas where we have direct commands or apostolic examples that indicate how duties, etc., should be performed (Matt. 15:9; Deut. 4:12; Rev. 22:18)?

STEPS OF FAITH

G. What is the greatest gift we can give those who aren't Christians? (Eph. 3:8)

Ans. _____

Government of the Church Chapter 28

INTRODUCTION: A religious body may consist of two three people, hundreds, thousands or even millions of members who share the same or similar beliefs. Large groups are divided into smaller groups or congregations for practical reasons. Some type of government is necessary for such an organization to function efficiently. The religious world recognized this need and has devised many different plans to meet it. Those who intend to follow Christ use the simple plan God specified in His word.

I. Church organization:

A. The prophet of old said that the government would rest on the Messiah's

_____ (Is. 9:7). The term for *government* comes from the Hebrew word *misrah* meaning *princely power* according to Young's Analytical Concordance.

B. _____ is the head of the Church and must have

_____ in all matters (Eph. 1:15-23; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:17-18).

C. _____ and _____ form the foundation of the Church with Christ as the chief corner stone (Eph. 2:20).

D. After the foundation was laid, local congregations were guided by

_____ (Acts 14:23; I Tim. 3:1-7) who work under the authority of Christ.

II. Discuss:

A. Since Christ established no centralized Earthly headquarters for His Church, apparently, certain dangers may be inherent in such a system. What dangers could you perceive? Consider: Titus 1:10-14; II John 9; III John 9-11.

STEPS OF FAITH

B. How does congregational autonomy solve these problems?

C. Study Acts 10 and find examples to complete the following chart.

Authority	Example
Direct command	
Approved or Apostolic Example	
Necessary inference	

The Role of Elders in the Church Part I Chapter 29

INTRODUCTION: Christ is the head of the Church (Eph. 5:23). After Christ ascended into Heaven, the Holy Spirit spoke through the Apostles (Acts 1:2). The words of Christ and the Apostles were recorded to build us up in the faith (Acts 20:32) and to lead us in the way of all truth (John 16:13; 17:17; 1 Tim. 2:4). In areas where the church was given no specific direction, God commanded that elders oversee each congregation (Tit. 1:5). These men are accountable before God for the spiritual well-being of the body (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17).

I. Quick Greek lesson from Young's Analytical Concordance concerning the words translated from Koine Greek to our word "elder".

A. *Episkopoi*

1. Translation: bishop, overseer, one who guards or superintends.
2. Selected references where this word or a form of this word was used: Acts

B. *Presbuteroi*

1. Translation: presbyter, elder, one advanced in experience or age.
2. Selected references: Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 5:1, 17; Titus 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:1.

C. *Poimeon*

1. Translation: pastor, shepherd
2. Selected references: Eph. 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:25; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2.

STEPS OF FAITH

D. *Proistamenos*

1. Translations: rule over; to lead, command
2. Selected references: I Tim. 5:17; Rom. 12:8; I Thess. 5:12.

E. *Hegoumenoi*

1. Translation: to lead, direct, rule
2. Selected references: Heb. 13:7, 1, 24.

F. By combining the meanings of the words translated as elder, we gain insight into the duties assigned by God to an elder, as well as an understanding of certain words that are often abused by well-meaning but uninformed members of the religious community. For instance, from the information above, elder = bishop = pastor; thus, a pastor is not necessarily a preacher, unless the local preacher is also an elder.

II. The eldership:

A. Why can't a congregation be scripturally organized with one elder? (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:17)

B. Through the Apostle Paul, the Lord commanded that only men with certain attributes could qualify to hold the position of elder. Definitions of terms used by the inspired writer are given below, supply the Bible term from I Tim. 3:2-7 that is best corresponds to the following definitions.

1. Wants to work = _____
2. Nothing can be proved against him = _____
3. A man who is the _____
4. Watchful = _____
5. Able to exercise good judgment under trying circumstances, not easily swayed, self-controlled, cool headed = _____
6. Conducts self so that his actions speak well of him = _____

STEPS OF FAITH

7. Hospitable, helpful = _____

8. Capable of imparting Bible truths and relating these to human problems =

9. Not a drunkard = _____

10. Not contentious, quarrelsome = _____

11. Not seeking dishonest gain = _____

12. Steadfast, faithful, long suffering = _____

13. Not abusive nor insulting = _____

14. Not overly concerned with material things =

15. One that _____ his own house

16. Not a new convert = _____

17. Having a good reputation = _____

C. Other qualifications of elders are found in Titus 1:6-9. Definitions are supplied.
Give the word used in the Bible.

1. No provable impure motives = _____

2. Not a polygamist = _____

3. Having _____ children

4. Not stubborn = _____

5. Not irritable = _____

6. Not a drunk = _____

STEPS OF FAITH

7. Not ready to come to blows = _____
8. Not covetous = _____
9. Devoted to people who are Christians = _____

10. Exercises good judgment = _____
11. Rendering to each his due = _____
12. undefiled by walking in sin = _____
13. _____ the faithful word

III. Discussion questions.

A. Why should an elder have all the characteristics mentioned in Timothy and Titus?

Ans. _____

B. If an elder has all the characteristics but something happens and he loses one or more of the characteristics, can the man remain an elder? Why or why not?

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

The Role of Elders in the Church

Part II

Chapter 30

INTRODUCTION: Elders must advise the people of God on spiritual matters including reminding people of their duties before God. Since the spiritual health of each member determines that person's eternal destiny, the elders' obligations and responsibilities are of a very grave nature. Men must prepare for years to assume this work, and all who are Christians must determine to support elders who are working on their behalf.

I. Appointment of elders in a local congregation: we have neither commands nor examples that fully explain how the early Church appointed elders. However, we have certain guide lines that help us.

A. The _____ develops men into elders (Acts 20:28).

B. This is done through man's study of the _____ of God (Eph. 6:17); II Tim. 2:15).

C. Elders are _____ by members and the preacher(s) (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23).

D. Selecting elders must:

1. Be done _____ and in _____ (I Cor.14:40).

2. Follow after things which make for _____ (Rom. 14:19).

II. Words of caution from inspired writers to elders:

A. The apostle Paul cautioned elders when he wrote that from the eldership, men would "arise speaking _____ things..."

B. Why would men do this (Acts 20:30)?

Ans. _____

C. Why would elders do such a terrible thing (Acts 20:30; III John 9)?

Ans. _____

III. Duties of elders:

STEPS OF FAITH

A. "Take heed unto..." (Acts 20:28)

1. " _____ "

2. " _____ "

B. Feed the _____ (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:2).

C. _____ (Heb. 13:17).

D. _____ and _____ the _____ (Titus 1:9).

E. _____ I Pet. 5:2-3).

F. Be _____ to the flock (I Pet. 5:2-3).

G. Warn the _____, comfort the _____, support the _____, be _____ toward all men, do not render _____ for evil..." (II Thess. 5:14-15). This was told to the brethren which certainly included the elders.

H. Visit the _____ (James 5:14)

I. _____ (Gal. 6:1; James 5:19-20)

IV. Duties of members toward elders:

A. Heb. 13:17 _____

B. I Thess. 5:12 _____

C. " _____ them highly for their work's sake" (I Thess. 5:13.)

D. _____ them worthy of _____ (I Tim. 5:17-18).

E. Do not receive an _____ against them except at the mouth of _____ or _____ (I Tim. 5:19).

STEPS OF FAITH

F. Is it biblical to pay elders? (I Tim. 5:17) _____

V. Discuss:

A. If an elder moves away, can he remain an elder where he once attended? Why, or why not, from a biblical point of view?

B. When should a man start preparing to become an elder?

C. If an elder fails to do the work through negligence (i.e., too busy) or health problems, what should he do?

D. How long should an elder serve? _____

E. Why must an elder have every qualification? _____

F. How many children are enough to qualify an elder? (Hint: consider the use of the word "children" in the Bible, i.e. Gen. 21:7, recall Sarah had one child.)

G. Give two reasons why an elder(s) cannot serve over more than one congregation (I Pet.5:2; Acts 14:23)?

1. _____

2. _____

H. What lesson can elders learn from the Old Testament? (Eze. 34:1-10).

STEPS OF FAITH

The Role of Deacons Chapter 31

INTRODUCTION: The office of deacon is not as clearly defined in God's word as the position of elder. We do know that this was a work of service, for the term "deacon" is translated from the Koine Greek word *diakonos* meaning servant (W. E. Vines, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*). We also know that the word of God mentions no purely honorary positions in the Church; quite the contrary, Christ informed the Apostles that whoever desired to be the greatest must be the servant of all (Matt. 10:35-45). We do know that deacons in the early church like the rest of the congregation worked under the guidance of the elders (Acts 20:17, 28; Heb. 13:17).

I. Qualifications of deacons:

A. Qualifications given to Timothy (I Tim. 3:8-13)

1. Dignified and serious = _____
2. Not two-faced = _____
3. Not covetous = _____
4. Not a drunkard = _____
5. Does not violate convictions = _____

6. Tested by time = _____
7. Loyal to one wife = _____
8. "...Ruling children and house well..." implies that:
 - a. He must have a _____
 - b. His children must be _____ and, if they are mature enough, Christians.
9. Wife should be a _____ woman

STEPS OF FAITH

10. Wife should be _____, _____, _____

B. It is possible that the men selected by the disciples in Acts 6:3 were deacons; if that is so, several additional qualifications may be important:

1. They should have a good reputation from people in and out of the church means _____

2. Bearing the fruits of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:22-24 for more information) = _____

3. Men of sound judgment = _____

II. Duties of a deacon:

Although the work of deacons is not as clear-cut as that of elders, we understand that they work under the authority of elders in a local congregation. Possibly they dealt primarily with the physical and financial needs of the congregation; whereas, the elders handled spiritual matters. This is suggested in Acts 6, and is applicable here only if these men were indeed deacons as is suggested by the context.

III. Discussion questions about deacons:

A. In Romans 16:1-2, some translators render "...servant of the church..." as "deaconess." Should women serve as deacons? Remember the silence of the scriptures can not be taken as a validation for cultural standards. _____ Use the scriptures that concern qualifications to explain why or why not. _____

B. Can a congregation be scripturally organized if for a short time it has no elders or deacons? (Consider Tit. 1:5)

C. What are some inherent dangers for a congregation that has no qualified men to handle these duties? _____

STEPS OF FAITH

- D. What part does teaching sound doctrine have in men qualifying for elders and deacons?

Evangelists as Servants of God Part I Chapter 32

INTRODUCTION: In some denominations, the "evangelist" is endowed with an array of duties, distinctive attire, and a special title. Conservative religious groups such as the church of Christ, encourage all male members to teach and preach. Other religious groups are between these extremes. Still other groups propose that women as well as men can be evangelists. Clearly, there is little agreement among various groups; however, if all accepted the same standard of authority, all could speak with the same voice. Only then will the Lord's prayer for unity of those professing to follow Him come to pass (John 17).

- I. Names of the one who proclaims God's word:

- A. Names given by God:

1. Evangelist (Acts 21:8) means *bringer of good tidings* according to W. E. Vine (p. 44).

- a. Who gave the Church evangelists (Eph. 4:7-11)? _____

STEPS OF FAITH

b. Why were these people provided to the Church (Eph. 5:12)?

(1). _____

(2). _____

(3). _____

c. Name two evangelists:

(1). _____ (II Tim. 4:5)

(2). _____ (Acts 21:8)

2. Preacher (Rom. 10:14) means proclaimer of the gospel according to Young's Concordance.

a. How does God feel about preachers (Rom. 10:15)?

b. Name five people who preached in the Bible:

(1). _____ (Mark 1:4)

(2). _____ (Matt. 4:17)

(3). _____ (I Tim. 2:7)

(4). _____ (II Tim. 4:2)

(5). _____ (Acts 8:5)

3. Minister (II Cor. 3:6) means servant, esp. in the service of God:

a. _____ was a minister (Eph. 3:7).

b. Paul encouraged _____ to be a good minister of Jesus Christ (I Tim. 4:6).

STEPS OF FAITH

- c. The prophet Isaiah wrote concerning the time of Jesus over 700 years
be _____ of the Lord and that men would call them the
_____ of our God (Isa. 61:6).
4. According to God's word, a p_____, an e_____ and a
m_____ are all names for the one who preach the gospel of
Christ to the world (II Tim. 4:5; 1:11; II Cor. 11:15).
- B. Some scriptural names that currently are used in an unscriptural manner
include:
1. "Father"
- a. Who is our Father in a spiritual or religious sense (I Pet. 1:3)?
Ans. _____
- b. Why is it unscriptural to call another individual our spiritual Father?
(Matt. 23:9; II Cor. 6:18)? Ans. _____
- c. Why can't we call a Catholic priest "Father"? (Matt. 23:9, II Cor. 6:18;
I Pet. 1:3; I John 2:13) Ans. _____

- d. Sometimes people try to justify a behavior by saying that "everyone
does it." Why is this a dangerous practice in religion? Ans. _____

- e. Why is it acceptable to call a "Dad", Father? (I John 2:13) Ans. _____

2. "Potentate"

STEPS OF FAITH

- a. Who may be called a "Potentate"? (I Tim. 6:14-15) _____
- b. He is called the _____ and _____ Potentate.

3. "Master"

- a. Who is our Master in a spiritual sense (Matt. 6:14-15)?

- b. Who can call someone "master" in a physical sense (Eph. 6:5)?

4. "Lord"

- a. Who is our Lord (Acts 2:36; Rom. 1:3,4; Phil. 2:11; Luke 6:45)?

- b. How many Lords do we have (Eph. 4:5)? _____

II. Qualifications for an evangelist:

- A. May women and men both preach the word of God in the assembly? (I Cor. 14:34-35; I Tim. 12:11-12) _____ Who has God told to do this work?

- B. Timothy was instructed to _____ men who could in turn _____
_____ (II Tim. 2:2).

- C. The servant of Jesus must not _____; but be _____ to _____
_____ able to _____, _____, instructing people in
_____ (II Tim. 2:24-25).

- D. He should be an example to the _____ (I Tim. 4:12).

STEPS OF FAITH

E. He must _____ to show himself a workman that needeth not to be

(II Tim. 2:15).

F. A preacher must be willing to _____ (II Tim. 4:5).

VI. Discussion Questions

A. Why do Christians abuse a preacher who is teaching the truth? How does God feel about this? Can you give scripture to support your answer?

B. Why isn't "Reverend" a good title for a preacher (Ps. 111:2, 9)?

C. Some national governments have individuals they have endowed with hereditary honor and privileges, not religious authority. Agree or disagree that it is unscriptural for these people to be called "Lord." Explain using scripture if possible.

Evangelists as Servants of God Part II Chapter 33

INTRODUCTION: The work of an evangelist is determined in two ways: first, we can study the scriptures to see what early day evangelists did; second, we can read the instructions given to evangelists by the Holy Spirit through the inspired writers. However, today, some preachers do things unauthorized by God. In addition, historically, churches of Christ have been remiss in paying their preachers. The Bible addresses this matter as well.

I. We have no Bible record of evangelists doing certain activities:

- A. Entertaining congregations by preaching techniques,
- B. Ruling the congregation,
- C. Tickling the ears of weak members (Gal. 1:10; II Tim. 4:3; Is. 30:8-11).

II. An evangelist has numerous responsibilities:

STEPS OF FAITH

- A. They must _____ the word (II Tim. 4:3).
- B. They are obligated to _____ (I Cor. 2:1-5; Acts 8:4-5, 35).
- C. They are commanded to:
1. _____ (Titus 1:13)
 2. _____ (II Tim. 4:2)
 3. _____ with all _____ and _____ (II Tim. 4:2)
- D. Warn against _____ (I Tim. 1:3; 4:1-6)
- E. Declare the _____ of God (Acts 20:27).
- F. The evangelist must charge some that they _____ (I Tim. 1:3).
- G. Hold _____ the form _____ (II Tim. 1:13).

III. An evangelist has certain obligations to do a good job.

- A. He must _____ the faith (II Tim. 2:24; Jude 1:3).
- B. He is expected to be _____ and _____ (II Tim. 2:24).
- C. He must teach in _____ (II Tim. 2:25).
- D. He must work with _____ (I Tim. 4:2).
- E. He must do _____ by _____ (I Tim. 5:21).
- F. He should fight a good _____ (I Tim. 1:18; 6:12).

STEPS OF FAITH

G. He must maintain the _____ and a _____
_____ (I Tim. 1:19).

H. He should be free from _____ (I Thess. 2:5).

I. He should not seek _____ from _____
(I Thess. 2:6).

IV. Financial support of the evangelist:

A. Those who preach the gospel should _____
_____ (I Cor. 9:14).

B. Let those who are taught the word _____ to the
teacher all _____ (I Cor. 9:14).

C. Give three reasons for supporting preachers (I Cor. 9:7).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

V. An evangelist has two goals when teaching others about Christ:

A. (I Tim. 4:16) _____

B. (I Tim. 4:16) _____

VI. Discussion questions:

A. How should members of the Church treat their preacher?

B. Would you encourage your son to become a preacher? Why or why not?

C. Why should a preacher be able to suffer affliction?

STEPS OF FAITH

Members of the Church

Part I

Chapter 34

INTRODUCTION: Members of the early Church were unified by a common belief and a common goal. They believed Jesus was the Messiah promised by God (John 4:25-26), and earnestly desired to spend eternity with God, the Father in Heaven (Matt. 5:12; Titus 1:1-2; I Pet. 1:4). To prepare a new member of the body for Heaven, the Holy Spirit works in conjunction with and through the word of God to bring a new babe in Christ to spiritual maturity (Rom. 8:14, 16-17; 1:17; Eph.6:17). The member's love of God, especially Christ, enables the Spirit to perfect His work (Eph. 3:16-19; I John 2:5). Fruit of the Spirit serves as evidence of God's power in the lives of members of the church (Gal. 5:22-23). This fruit of the Spirit also may be regarded as sign posts that reappear to guide the maturing Christian toward that Heavenly goal.

I. Christians have a precious hope in Christ:

- A. Jesus said that in His Father's house were many _____
(John 14:2).
- B. Jesus has prepared a _____ for us to be with Him in His
Father's house (John 14:3)
- C. We know that when our body dies, we have another "_____"
that was not made with hands which is a Heavenly body (II Cor. 5:1-4).
- D. We know that when we persevere in the face of problems, we have a
_____ (Matt. 5:10-12; 10:42; Rev. 22:12).

II. Christians have the gift of the Holy Spirit (= gift of the Holy Ghost).

- A. When does the Spirit come to us (Acts 2:38)? _____

- B. After that time, the Christian has the Holy Spirit _____
within him (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19-20; I John 4:13; Rom. 8:11).
- C. What does the Holy Spirit do for Christians?
 - 1. Gives us the _____ of God (Rom 5:5).

STEPS OF FAITH

2. The Holy Spirit represents an _____ that we belong to God and have a home with Him (II Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14).
 3. The Spirit leads us by the _____ (Rom. 8:14; Eph. 6:17).
 4. The Spirit testifies as a witness with our spirit that we are _____ and joint heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17; I John 5:6-7).
 5. The Spirit makes _____ on our behalf to God according to God's will (Rom. 8:26-27).
- D. Why does the Spirit help us (Gal. 4:6)? _____
- _____

III. "...By their fruits you shall know them" (Matt. 7:20) suggests that certain changes of character and attitude occur as members become more mature. These changes are evidence that the Spirit is working to accomplish the will

of God. The Spirit works through the _____ of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22).

A. List the characteristics that represent evidence of the active influence of the Spirit in a Christian's life (Gal. 5:22-23):

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

STEPS OF FAITH

B. We are encouraged to be partakers of the _____

(II Pet. 1:4).

C. Christians should give all _____ to do certain things (II Pet. 1:5). What should they add to their faith to mature in a manner acceptable to God (II Pet. 1:5-7)?

1. _____

5. _____

2. _____

6. _____

3. _____

7. _____

4. _____

D. If Christians do these things, they shall be neither _____ nor _____ in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord (II Pet. 1:8).

E. If Christians fail to do these things, what is likely to happen? (II Pet. 1:9-10; 2:14-15, 20; I Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:4; Heb. 6:6; 10:38-39)

F. What causes a child of God to fall from grace, and be separated from the blessings of God? (James 1:12-15; Isa. 59:1-2)

G. A child of God puts the things of God ahead of the things of this

_____ ; whereas, the child of the world, places his emphasis on

_____ things and considers _____ things of little importance (James 1:27; I John 2:15, 17; Ecc. 12:13-14).

STEPS OF FAITH

Members of the Church Part II Chapter 35

INTRODUCTION: Some people feel that any church we attend should please God as long as the worshipper feels good about where he or she worships and as long as the worshipper enjoys the service. We need to see what the Bible says about the acceptable names of God's worshippers. In addition, this lesson briefly examines Peter's statement that judgment begins at the house of God (I Pet 4:17).

I. Members are called by many names:

A. In I Peter 2:5, members of the Church are called

p_____, a _____, a h_____ n_____,
and a p_____ p_____.

B. I Peter 1:15-16, says that these people are _____.

C. Believers were called _____ at _____ (Acts 11:26).

D. Paul, the inspired writer, says they are _____ of the body
which is the _____ (I Cor. 1:12; Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18).

E. In II Corinthians 6:1, they are called _____.

F. Inspired by God, Paul calls them _____ in Romans 1:7.

G. John calls believers _____ (I John 3:13).

H. Members are also called _____ of God (I John 3:1-2),
_____ of light (John 12:36; I John 1:5), and
_____ of God (Rom. 8:16).

I. In the Bible, what are members of the Lord's church called? Circle one: Baptists,
Methodists, Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons, Christians (Acts 11:26).

J. Why is a name important? (Acts 4:12) _____

STEPS OF FAITH

II. The eternal difficulty:

A. What is the nature of humans? (Rom. 3:23)

B. What is God's nature? (Habb. 1:12-13)

C. Conclusion: only sinless people can get to heaven. Who devised the plan to solve this problem? (Rom. 3:23-26)

D. What did Christ do for us? (Rom. 5:8-11)

E. When we are _____ as a part of the steps of salvation, we are freed from sin (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-8; Rev. 1:5).

F. What else must be done to become a Christian? (Matt. 10:32, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38)

G. Those who are Christian will have their names written in the _____

_____ (Rev. 21:22-27).

III. Those outside of Christ:

A. What will happen to those whose names are not in the Lamb's book of life? (Rev. 20:12-15; consider Ex. 32:32)

B. What type of people will be there? (Eph. 5:3-7, I Tim.1:9-10, Rev. 21:8)

STEPS OF FAITH

C. Who else will be there (Rev. 20:10)? _____, _____ and the

_____ will be in hell.

D. All baptized believers go to heaven. Agree or disagree and explain based on Matt. 13:41-43, II Pet. 3:17 and other scriptures. Explain.

E. What are three reasons these people will be lost? (II Pet. 2, esp. vs. 1-3, 12-22)

F. How does the Lord feel about those who miss heaven? (II Pet. 3:9, 10-13, v. 13 prob. spiritual, see Rev. 21:1, 27)

STEPS OF FAITH

Duties of Christian Men and Christian Women Chapter 36

INTRODUCTION: In His wisdom, God recognized that organizations function best when each person understands and fulfills his or her role in that organization. The church, the called out of God, is no different. What is different is where this organization functions. We live in a republic where the changing whims of the society play a role in government and in the laws. The church is within the Kingdom of God, not the republic of God. In this kingdom, the government and laws are under the sole direction of one individual, the King. The laws of God, our King, may conflict with social norms or even laws of the land where we live. However, if we are loyal to our King, we will accept and obey God's laws (Acts 5:29).

Although God does not force us to accept our assigned roles, He does require it. Likewise, no one has the right to force someone to accept his or her role; rather every Christian disciplines himself or herself as part of his or her subjection to God's authority. Parents teach their children God's will. That does not mean that all men or women are entirely comfortable with their role as God defines it. Our genetic heritage and the society in which we mature exert and influence our desires. Some men enjoy a public position in leadership; others find it intimidating. Some women would like a public leadership position; others find fulfillment in a support position. However, with patience and God's help, all can find a place where we can serve God and the human family, as well as grow in our faith.

I. Duties of Christian men:

- A. The first duty of Christian men is to _____ God (Heb. 5:9).
- B. The first requirement for a bishop (or elder) is that the candidate must be a _____; the second is that he desires a good work (I Tim. 3:1).
- C. A deacon must be the _____ of one _____ (I Tim. 3:12).
- D. In Acts 6, a problem arose among members of the church. Grecians murmured against Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations so the apostles asked the disciples to select seven _____ of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and _____ to see to this. These may be the first deacons. If so, all were _____ (Acts 6: 1-3).
- E. This suggests that both elders and deacons should be _____.
- F. Who leads in prayers everywhere (I Tim. 2:8)? _____

STEPS OF FAITH

G. List ten preachers mentioned in the New Testament.

1. _____ (Acts 2)
2. _____ (Acts 6:8-10)
3. _____ (Acts 8:35)
4. _____ (Acts 9:22)
5. _____ (Acts 18:24)
6. _____ (I Tim. 4:16)
7. _____ (Tit. 2:1)
8. _____ (I John 4:6)
9. _____ (Jude 30)
10. _____ (Acts 18:1)

H. No female preachers are mentioned in the New Testament. No command, example, or inference exists that women preached in the early church.

II. Duties of Christian women: we've concluded that men served as elders, deacons and preachers in the early church.

A. Some translations of Romans 16:1, lead us to believe _____ was a deaconess.

Brief Greek Lesson: According to W. E. Vine (pp. 272-273), the term *deacon* is translated from *DIAKONOS* meaning a servant, as opposed to *DOULOS* meaning a slave. In Matt. 20:26, when Jesus tells the disciples that if they want to be great, they must become a minister, or servant, a form of *DIAKONOS* is used (Vine, p. 273). Apparently, Pheobe like Dorcus (Acts 9:36-43) helped people by tending their physical needs making their life more comfortable as Jesus directed. It is unnecessary to assume that Pheobe was a deaconess with the same duties as a male deacon, and this assumption is not supported by any other scripture.

B. In Gen. 2:21-24, God created _____. There is no evidence the two were unequal in a religious sense.

C. In Gen. 3:1-6, _____ tempted _____ to sin and _____ tempted _____.

D. God punished all three for breaking His _____ (Gen. 3:12-16).

E. To the woman, God said that He would greatly multiply her sorrow and in sorrow, she would bring forth _____, her desire would be to her

STEPS OF FAITH

husband, and he shall _____ over thee (Gen 3:16).

F. Because Eve tempted Adam to disobey God by placing worldly desires ahead of _____, no longer would women have authority over adult men in religious matters (I Cor. 11:3-9).

G. Can women teach _____ and _____ (Tit. 2:4-5; II Tim 15).

H. Paul by inspiration says that he does not allow women to _____ men or to _____ authority over them and ties it back to Adam and Eve (I Tim. 2:11-13).

I. Dorcas was a good example of a Christian woman. She performed many good works. What did she do (Acts 9:36-41)?

Ans. _____

J. In Proverbs 31:10-31, the inspired writer describes and commends what one woman did for her family.

K. Paul entered into the house of Philip with those who traveled with him to Jerusalem. Philip's young daughters prophesied but _____ came from Judaea to deliver a warning to Paul from the Holy Spirit. Possibly these young daughters were teachers; whereas, the prophet from Judaea was a foreteller of events.

L. Women may not publically teach a mixed class of adults, but women as well as men should study so they can give an answer to those who ask about their _____ (I Tim. 2; I Pet. 3:15).

III. In the Old Testament and in New Testament times, God seemed to expect women to avoid the limelight in religious matters and to accept a support position (I Cor. 14:34). Any military leader will affirm that without proper support a military operation is likely to fail. Support is a very important position. Let's examine some instances where support was important.

STEPS OF FAITH

- A. God selected the tribe of _____ to serve Him and the tabernacle under the old law. Of this tribe, God designated Aaron and his sons to be priests.

The other males in this tribe supported the _____ and the _____ (Num. 18:2-7).

- B. _____ the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and _____ and many others ministered unto Jesus of their substance (Luke 8:3). These women made Jesus' earthly life more pleasant.

- C. _____, a business woman, assisted Paul and others enough to deserve a commendation from Paul (Romans 16:1-2).

IV. Discussion questions:

- A. Generally, we believe women can teach young children. However, in our society, sometimes children as young as five are called "men;" at other times, children as old as seventeen or eighteen are called young boys. At what point do boys become men? Consider that in Num. 4:39, men above thirty years old were counted as men. Also, at twelve years old, Jesus went with his parents and was subject to them (Luke 2:51). They counted him as a child. He began preaching when He was about 30 years old.

The Bible suggest that boys become men...

- _____ 1. When they reach puberty.
- _____ 2. When they are able to support a family and are on their own.
- _____ 3. When they are thirty years old.
- _____ 4. Other suggestions.

- B. List seven things women can do today in church or for members without violating God's word.

- C. Sometimes we hear that women cannot teach men religious matters. Read Acts 18: 24-28. Here _____ and her husband _____ helped a preacher, _____ (Acts 18:24), reach a more complete understanding of God's word.

STEPS OF FAITH

Church Discipline Chapter 37

INTRODUCTION: Those who believe in God are faced with many temptations. In the past, God expected His people to follow His directions. When they did not do so, He punished them. Today, God still expects His people to obey His commands. We can still expect God's wrath when we ignore His will to do what seems right to us. When that happens, elders of a local church have an obligation to remind Christians to submit to God's authority. Fellow Christians also have an obligation to warn one another of danger. That is church discipline. When we choose to ignore elders and members who care for our soul, the elders must purge the church of our sin. This is also part of church discipline.

I. Throughout the Bible we read of God-fearing people who sinned and fell from favor with their Maker.

A. What statement in Genesis 3:8 suggests that Adam and Eve were on familiar terms with the Lord?

Ans. _____

B. What did they do that provoked the Lord's wrath (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:1-3)?

Ans. _____

C. What did the Lord do that suggested He expected animal sacrifice to answer for people's sins (Gen. 3:7, 10, 21)?

Ans. _____

D. What did Cain do that suggests he wanted to please God (Gen. 4:1-3)?

Ans. _____

E. How did Abel provoke Cain (Gen. 4:4)? Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

- F. What did Cain do to Abel (Gen. 4:5-8)? Ans. _____
- G. _____, a priest of Israel, spoke for God to the descendants of Israel (I Sam. 1:9, 17).
- H. What did Eli do that displeased God (I Sam. 2:12, 22-24, 30-31; 3:13)? Ans. _____.
- I. What did God promise to do (I Sam. 4:11-18)? Ans. _____

- J. How did David please God (I Sam. 30:8; 2:1)? Ans. _____

- K. What did David do that alienated him from God (II Sam. 11)?
Ans. _____

- L. What did David do when Nathan confronted him with the transgression (II Sam. 12:1-14)?
Ans. _____
- M. What immediate consequences did David suffer because of his sin (II Sam. 12:15-23)?
Ans. _____
- N. After the days of David and Solomon, Israel divided into Israel and Judah and both eventually left God to worship other gods. How did God feel about this (Jere. 8:12-13)?

STEPS OF FAITH

Ans. _____

II. We have an obligation to stand for the truth.

A. Why can we judge the behavior of someone (John 7:24, I Cor. 6)?

Ans. _____

B. Who are the saints to judge (I Cor. 6:2-3)?

1. _____

2. _____

C. Paul discovered the church at Corinth was keeping company with a fornicator (I Cor. 5). What did Paul tell them to do about this problem (I Cor. 5:13).

Ans. _____

D. Why can't we accept sinners in the church (I Cor. 6:17-19)? Ans.

E. Paul urges the Corinthian Christians and us as well to _____ yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you,

except ye be _____" (II Cor. 13:5)?

F. Why can't we be in Christ when we try to follow the Ten Commandments

(Gal. 2:15-21; 5:3-4; 5:3-6; Col. 29-17)? Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

G. What will happen to those that are not in Christ (John 15:6; Heb. 4:11; II Pet. 2:15; 3:17)?

Ans. _____

III. How should the church deal with those who commit sin in the congregation?

A. Why do we need to adhere to biblical instructions regarding discipline of erring members (II Thess. 2:15)?

Ans. _____

B. We have instructions for handling personal offenses between two members (Matt. 18:15+). These steps provide guidelines that many have used successfully. List the steps.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

C. What else must be done (Rom. 16:17-18, II Thess. 3:6, 11, 14-15)?

Ans. _____

D. What should we do for the sinner (Luke 17:3; Gal. 6:1)?

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

E. Why must a church deal with sinners in it (I Cor. 5:5; I Tim. 5:19-20; James 5:19-20)?

1. _____
2. _____
- _____

IV. The extent of God's authority.

A. Before an elder is accused of sin, what is necessary (I Tim. 5:19-20)?

Ans. _____

B. Paul called _____, an apostle, to task in a public manner for behaving improperly toward the Gentile Christians (Gal. 2:11-21).

V. Discussion Questions:

A. Why don't people who sin appreciate having that sin pointed out?

Ans. _____

B. "Some people become confrontational when told they are wrong. Others drop out of the church altogether. Sometimes entire families stop attending church when one member is disciplined. Therefore, we shouldn't do that." Can you find a verse that refutes this logic?

Ans. _____

C. "Churches should not publicly discipline members. It is embarrassing for them and shows a lack of love." Can you refute this logic with the Bible?

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

Heaven: Home of the Saved Chapter 38

INTRODUCTION: A person's life on this earth commonly ends after less than a hundred and thirty years; however, a soul's existence doesn't end. Since each person has an *eternal* soul, that soul must continue to exist some place. Our duty in this life is to determine where that soul will live.

The focus of children's life is on earthly pleasures: this is normal. However, as they mature, they make many choices. Will they choose to follow God, or be separated from God by their choices? We know that sin-stained souls cannot enter Heaven. The Bible describes an alternative eternal residence for the eternal soul, Hell (Luke 16:23).

Part of being a Christian is learning to mold ourselves after the pattern of Christ and thereby lifting our focus from the Earth's temporal pleasures to the Heaven's eternal values. We do this by disciplining the mind and the body.

Some people deny the soul has an afterlife. They don't believe in Heaven or Hell; others like the idea of Heaven, but they don't believe in Hell. Yet the Bible has much to say about both destinations.

I. The Christians' Hope

A. Who prepared a heavenly habitation for the soul? (John 14:2; Heb. 11:16)

Ans. We are told that _____ and _____ prepared a heavenly place for the soul. We were not told the exact role of Jesus and the Father in the preparations. Possibly the Spirit also had a part.

B. How many people will be saved? (Matt. 7:14; 8:11-12; Luke 13:23-27; Rev. 7:1-9; 14). Circle the correct answer.

All people 144,000 Obedient believers All Jews and Christians

C. Where is the Christian's citizenship? (Phil. 3:20)

Ans. _____

II. The Heavenly Identity:

A. What kind of body will those who are saved have when they reach Heaven? (I Cor. 15:49-52; I John 3:2; Phil. 3:20-21)

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

B. Will we know one another?

1. I John 3:2-3. We will see _____.
2. Matt. 5:8. We will see _____;
3. Matt. 8:11. We will sit with _____.
4. Matt. 17:2. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain. There Jesus was transfigured. The three apostles saw two other men, _____ and _____ speaking with Jesus. These references suggest we will know one another

C. Moses and Elijah, had died centuries before Peter, James and John saw them. There were no cameras. As far as we know, no one sketched a portrait of either of these men. How did the apostles recognize these men (Matt. 17:4)?

Ans. _____

D. What provision has God made for small children who die? (II Sam. 12:15-22)

E. How long will this inheritance, heaven, last? (I Pet. 1:4)

Ans. _____

F. In Revelation chapters 21 and 22:1-5, John uses figurative language to

STEPS OF FAITH

describe the Church, or Heaven, or possibly both. Complete the following charts then decide for yourself if these chapters describe the Church or Heaven or both.

Evidence that Suggests Revelation 21 and 22 Refers to the Church		
Common Element	Comparable Reference	Revelation Reference
1.	II Cor. 1:1; 11:2	Rev. 21:2, 9
2.	Is 60:19 (describes Church est. by Christ)	Rev. 21:23
3.	Is. 60:3, 5; 66:12	Rev. 21:26

Evidence that Suggests Revelation 21 and 22 Refers to Heaven		
Common Element/Location	Comparable Reference	Revelation Reference
1.	Ex. 32:33; Rev. 20:11-12	Rev. 21:27
2.	Gen. 2:9; Rev. 2:7	Rev. 22: 2, 14
3.	Acts 7:49	Rev. 22: 3
4.	John 4:10, 14; 7:38;	Rev. 21:6; Rev. 22:2, 14
5.	Exodus 33:18-20	Rev. 22: 4

Sin Divides God from Humanity Chapter 39

INTRODUCTION: In the Garden of Eden, humanity heard the voice of God. The Lord gave the inhabitants two commands: dress the garden and keep it, and do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:15-17). We don't know how many days, years, decades or millennia passed before the serpent spoke to Eve, but the old devil disguised as a serpent persuaded Eve to sin, and she persuaded Adam to follow her example (Gen. 3:1-7). God was walking in the garden in the cool of the day when He

STEPS OF FAITH

noticed that Adam and Eve were hiding. God asked them: "Where are you?" God knew they weren't where He had left them, in a proper relationship with their Creator. Neither are we. Paul writes that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

Although we are not guilty of Adam's sin (Eze. 18:4, 20), after we reach the age of accountability, we each choose to commit our own sins (Rom 3:10-12; 23).

I. The Sin Problem:

A. In the beginning, God created _____ and _____
(Gen. 1:27).

B. Which member of the Godhead actually created people (John 1:1-3, 14)?

Ans. _____.

C. How does God feel about people? (I John 3:1) Ans. _____

D. Why did Jesus come to Earth? (John 1:29; I John 1:2:1-2; 4:10)

Ans. _____.

E. What we do determines if we are all the children of _____ or the children of the _____ (I John 3:8).

F. "The soul that sinneth, it shall _____" (Ezekiel 18:4; Rom. 6:23).

G. Is sin inherited (Ezekiel 28:15)? Explain. Ans _____

H. What is sin? (I John 3:4; 5:17) Ans. All _____

is sin and sin is the _____.

STEPS OF FAITH

- I. List behaviors that God calls sin (Rom.1:27-31; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5; I Tim. 1:9-10; Rev. 22:15).

Ans. _____

- J. Why doesn't God classify sins as big and little, or minor and major sins?

Ans. _____

- K. Why can't a person sin just a little and still go to heaven? Ans. God is so pure that He cannot look on _____ and _____ (Hab. 1:12-13).

II. The Solution to the Sin Problem

- A. What cleanses us from sin? (I John 1:7) Ans. _____

- B. What part does baptism play in salvation? (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Ans. Baptism gives _____ of sins and at that time we receive the gift of the _____.

_____ washes away sin.

- C. Where do we contact the blood of Christ? (Rom. 6:3-6)

Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

D. All unrighteousness is _____: and there is a sin that is not unto _____ (I John 5:17).

E. What sin is not unto death? (I John 1:9) Ans. _____

F. God makes us two promises:

1. He promised us _____ (I John 2: 25). God has kept this promise. We do have eternal life but where we spend eternity is another matter.

2. God will do _____ if we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight (I John 3:22). However, we must ask properly (James 4:3).

G. If the _____ who live in heaven can sin as suggested in II Pet 2:4, perhaps when we get to heaven, we too can sin if that is our choice.

More likely, God is so _____ that He cannot tolerate sin (Hab. 2:13).

Hell: A Place of Torment Chapter 40

INTRODUCTION: A number of Hebrew and Greek words are translated as the word "hell". In Hebrew, the word *Sheol*, translated as Hell, simply means the realm of the dead. In later Jewish literature, such as the book of Enoch 22:1-14, we see the idea of divisions within *Sheol*, one for the righteous and one for the wicked (J. D. Douglas ed. *The New Bible Dictionary*). Deut. 32:22, Job 26:6; Ps. 9:17, Ezek 31:16, Amos 9:2 are among the references that refer to *Sheol* as Hell.

According to Douglas, *Gehenna*, another Hebrew word comes from the valley of Hinnom where trash, corpses of criminals and dead animals were burned (p. 527). This valley, located south of Jerusalem, may be identified as either the Wadi al-Rababi or the Kidron Valley (Douglas, p. 527). *Gehenna* seems to be the place of punishment for sinners (Douglas, p. 518). "Luke 12:47 refers to intensity not duration of punishment"

STEPS OF FAITH

(Douglas, p. 518). In Matt. 5:22; 5:29; 10:28; Mark 9:43; James 3:6 and elsewhere, workers have translated *Gehenna* as hell.

Another word, *Tartaros* is translated as hell. According to Douglas, *Tartaros* is the classical word for a place of eternal punishment but it is for fallen angels (p. 518). *Tartaros* is referenced only once in the Bible. In II Peter 2:4, we see the verb form, *Tartaroo*. translated variously as “cast down to hell” or “to the lower regions” in different versions of the Bible.

Hades, the fourth word translated as “hell”, represents the underworld or the realm of the dead in the classics (Douglas, p. 518). In Acts 2:27, 31 Peter quotes Ps. 26:10, the apostle applies this verse to the resurrection of Christ from the realm of the dead. In Matt. 16:18, Christ says the gates of *Hades* shall not prevail against His church. He may be reassuring the listeners that His death, called the “gates of *Hades*”, will not alter His plan to set up His church. The word *Hades* appears in a number of locations, among these Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; and Rev. 10:13-14.

From a human view point, we would like everyone to go to heaven and behave properly once they arrive. Let’s see why that isn’t possible.

I. The Sin Problem:

- A. What we do determines if we are all the children of _____ or the children of the _____ (I John 3:8).
- B. “The soul that sinneth, it shall _____” (Ezekiel 18:4; Rom. 6:23).
- C. What is sin? (I John 3:4; 5:17) Ans. All _____ is sin and sin is the _____.
- D. Why can’t a person sin just a little and still go to heaven? Ans. God is so pure that He cannot look on _____ and _____ (Habakkuk. 1:12-13).
- E. Sinners cannot go to heaven possibly for two reasons:
 - 1. If the _____ who live in heaven can sin as suggested in II Pet 2:4, perhaps, when we get to heaven, we too can sin if that is our life style of choice.
 - 2. God is so _____ that He cannot tolerate sin that close to Him (Hab. 1:13).

STEPS OF FAITH

II. Hell

A. Origin:

1. "Then shall He (God) say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the _____ and his _____" (Matt. 25:41).
2. "...God spared not the _____ that sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Pet 2:4).

B. Characteristics of Hell

1. The beast, and the false prophet that wrought miracles, them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image these both were cast alive into a _____ (Rev 19:20).
2. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be _____ day and night for ever and ever (Rev. 20:10).

C. What and who will be cast into this lake of fire along with the devil and his angels? (Rev. 20:14-15).

Ans. And death (thano) and hell (Hades) were cast into the lake of fire (Gehenna). This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the _____.

D. Whose names are not found in the Book of Life? Ans. _____

STEPS OF FAITH

(Rev. 21:8).

E. Who erases a person's name from the Lord's Book of Life (Ex. 32:33; Rev. 3:5)?

Ans. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will _____ blot out of my book."

F. What other book does the Lord keep? (Mal. 3:16) Ans. _____

G. John refers to several books in Revelation 14:10. We may not know all of the books, but we know two of them. What are they?

Ans. _____

H. If a person's name is written in the Book of Life, he or she will not work an _____, or tell _____ (Rev. 21:27).

III. Who are destined to go to Hell?

A. _____ and his _____ (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

B. Those who _____ God's will (I Ti 1:9; Rom 1:30; II Thess. 1:8-9; II Tim. 3:2; Tit. 1:16; I Pet. 2:7+; Eph. 5:6; Heb 2:2).

C. "And whosoever was not found written in the _____
_____ was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:21).

STEPS OF FAITH

- D. Sin separates people from God and all that God has prepared. Only one act, namely _____, connects Christ's death on the cross with our sin, and erases our sin (Col. 2:11-13).
- E. When we submit to this act, our sins are _____ away (Acts 22:16).
- F. Which is inherited, sin or the consequences of sin? (Eze. 18:20)

Ans. _____

(Hint: consider that if a man or woman takes certain drugs then becomes a parent, the child of either may be deformed or otherwise adversely affected by what the parent did. Thus an adult may sin and produce consequences that are long ranging. Would you like to have been the son or daughter of Judas? That doesn't mean you would go to hell, but would life have pleasant? Likewise, we do not inherit Adam's sin, only the consequence. For once sin entered the world, anyone could sin. Adam and Eve had a family. Cain and Abel were two of their children. God punished Cain for killing Abel, not because Adam sinned. However, because Adam sinned, Cain and Abele did not grow up in Eden. They suffered the consequence of their father's sin.)

- G. Where does God's judgment begin? (Matt. 8:12; I Pet. 4:17; I Tim. 3:15).

Ans. _____

- H. Duration of punishment: How long will people remain in hell (Mark 9:43-44 (ASV omits verse v. 44); Jude 7)? Ans. _____

IV. Solution to the Sin Problem:

- A. What cleanses us from our sin? (I John 1:7) Ans. The _____ of Jesus cleanses us from our sin.

- B. Where do we contact the blood of Christ? (Rom. 6:3-6)
Ans. When we are baptized, we are baptized into the _____

_____. Christ's blood was shed in His death.

STEPS OF FAITH

C. What part does baptism play in salvation? (Acts 2:38)

Ans. Baptism gives _____ of sins and, at that time,
we receive the gift of the _____.

United in Marriage Chapter 41

INTRODUCTION: Inspired writers tell us that God is called the obedient believer's Father (Jer. 31:9; John 8:18). They also compare God's followers to the bride of Christ (Jer. 2:31; Rev. 21:2). Elsewhere, Christ is described as the bridegroom (Is. 61:10; John 3:29). These three concepts are closely related to marriage and our concept of family.

If marriage helps us to understand the relationship expressed between God and faithful followers, between Christ and Israel, and between Christ and the Church, then any distortion of the concept of marriage mars our understanding of these spiritual relationships. Today, we see society redefining marriage as a union between a male and female, two males or two females. The role of the father is challenged and the place of children in the marriage is confused.

I. Origin of marriage:

A. The first time Adam saw Eve, he was inspired to say: "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his _____: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24).

B. Jesus adds: Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, _____ asunder" (Matt. 19:5).

C. Adam did not marry Ed; Eve did not marry Ami; rather, Adam, a male, married _____, a female (Gen. 2:24).

D. _____ was the first man recorded to have married more than one wife (Gen. 4:19).

STEPS OF FAITH

II. Duties of the husband:

A. Describe how much a husband should love his wife (Eph. 5: 25).

Ans. _____

B. A husbands should love his wife as much as he loves his own

_____ (Eph. 5: 28).

C. He that loveth his wife loveth _____ (Eph. 5: 28).

D. A husband should love his wife as much as he loves _____
(Eph. 5:33; Deut 24:5).

E. A man should _____ and _____ his wife
like Christ nourishes and cherishes the Church (Eph. 5:28-29).

F. Husbands, _____ your wives, and be not _____
against them (Col. 3:19).

G. Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to _____,

giving _____ unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel,
and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not

_____ (I Pet. 3:7).

H. In Habakkuk 2:5, God pronounces judgment on the Chaldeans as He
inspires the prophet to write: "Yea also, because he transgresseth by

wine, he is a proud man neither _____

_____, who enlargeth his desire as hell and is

STEPS OF FAITH

as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations and heapeth unto him all people.” This seems to imply that a proper man will not drink, exhibit a proud attitude, and remains at home.

- I. This verse, Habakkuk 2:5, should not be used to excuse a man from doing what he can to provide a living for his family. That would contradict I Tim 5:8. In

this verse, a man is charged with _____ for his own, and if he refuses, he has denied the faith and he is worse than an

_____.

- K. Fathers are instructed to avoid provoking their children to wrath but to bring them up in the nurture and _____ of the Lord (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21).
- L. Fathers are urged to _____ their sons while there is hope (Prov. 19:18).

III. Duties of the wife

- A. In Genesis 3:16, God condemns Eve for breaking His law and tells the woman that “I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy _____ shall be to thy husband and he shall _____ over thee. God did not tell men to subject women; women are to voluntarily subject themselves to their husband’s authority.
- B. In I Peter 3:1, the apostle wrote “likewise, ye wives, be in _____ to your own husbands; that if any obey not the word they also may without the word be won by the conversation (behavior) of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.
- C. Wives _____ yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord for the husband is the _____ of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and He is the Savior of the body (Eph. 5:22-23).

STEPS OF FAITH

- D. In Eph. 5:33, Paul urges the wife to _____ her husband. Although Paul was speaking about the church's relationship to Christ, he would not have said that if a wife were not also to honor her husband.
- E. In Ephesians 5:24, Paul wrote: "Therefore as the church is _____ unto Christ so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
- F. Wives, submit yourselves unto your _____, as it is fit in the Lord (Col. 3:18-19).
- G. That they (aged women) may teach the young women to be sober to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, _____, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed (Tit. 2:4-5). We see that godly married women focus on their home and family. This verse has been taken to mean that a godly married woman cannot work outside her home. That cannot be a correct understanding considering Proverbs 31 and Acts 16:14-15, 40.

IV. Marriage partners have a mutual obligation to their spouse.

- A. The wife hath not power over her own body, but the _____: and likewise, also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the _____. With this statement God gives equal sex rights to the two sexes (I Cor. 7:4 -5).
- B. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to _____ and _____; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency (I Cor. 7:5). Couples should not be away from one another for lengthy periods of time.
- C. Marriage is _____ in all, and the _____ undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge (Heb. 13:4).

V. What happens to the spouse if one of a married couple dies?

STEPS OF FAITH

- A. For the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he _____; but if the husband be dead, she is _____ from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband is dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no _____, though she be married to another man (Rom. 7:2-4). Also (I Cor. 7:39).
- B. For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither _____, nor are given in _____; but are as the angels which are in heaven (Mark 12:25, Matt. 22:30).
- VI. The laws of marriage have a spiritual application. Let's consider God's dealings with His people.
- A. The Husband, God, was loyal and fulfilled all obligations, but the wife, Israel, committed fornication (Jer. 13:27 [Jerusalem stands for Israel]; Matt: 23:37-39) and was worthy of _____ under the old law (Lev. 20:10) and worthy of _____ under the New Testament laws (Matt. 5:32).
- B. Then after a time, God used a remnant of the Israel nation to form a nucleus for a _____ with a new group of people (Heb. 6:10; 10:16; 13:20). (Two words.)
- C. This group included _____ and _____ (I Cor. 12:13) who would not be ashamed to call on His name (Rom. 10:11).
- D. Christ is the husband of the new _____, the Church (Eph. 5:31-32; Rev. 19:7-8; 21:9-10).

STEPS OF FAITH

Divorce and Its Consequences Chapter 42

INTRODUCTION: In our society, almost half of all marriages end in divorce. Researchers hypothesize about what causes this and have reached a variety of conclusions. However, the answer is quite simple: couples are not following God's commands. Too often couples leap into marriage with no intention of remaining; neither member is mature enough to make the necessary adjustments that enable a marriage work, neither partner has a good job, neither schools nor families teach essential life skills, and far too often, couples do not put God first, the spouse second, children third, then the parents and families of the couple, and work. God, the spouse and children must come before work, contrary to the dictates of many employers. Finally, parents of the newlyweds must support the young couple's decision to set up an independent household. When marriage breaks down, divorce often seems the only solution. God speaks about this just as He has spoken about other aspects of human existence.

I. Divorce or "putting away" under the Law of Moses:

A. Under the old law "when a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes because he hath found some uncleanness in her, then let him write her a bill of _____, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife" (Deut. 24:1-2).

B. Why did God allow divorce in the old law? (Matt. 19:7-8) He (Jesus) saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts

suffered you to _____ your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. (Also see Mark 10:2-9).

C. How does God feel about "putting away" or divorce? Ans. God

_____ "putting away" (Mal. 2:16).

II. Divorce under the law of Christ:

A. When two people marry, according to Jesus, they are no more two, but one flesh and what God has joined together, let not man _____

_____ (Matt. 19:6).

STEPS OF FAITH

- B. If a woman puts away (= divorces) her husband, and marries someone else, she commits _____ (Mark 10:12).
- C. "But I (Jesus) say unto you, That whosoever shall puts away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit _____: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced commits _____" (Matt. 5:32; 19:8).
- D. Following the resurrection, people who were married while alive are _____ (Matt. 22:30)?
(Apparently, angels are asexual individuals since the reason for sex is procreation and heaven's population is not increased by births as far as we know.)

III. Spiritual application of the concept of divorce and marriage for Israel.

- A. Recall that Israel divided into Israel and Judah (I Kings 11:30-33; 12:26-33). Jer. 3:12-14 Israel, acknowledge thine iniquity and turn, for I am _____ unto you.
- B. In Jeremiah 3:14, the inspired writer wrote: "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am _____ unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion."
- C. God said that His people had committed two evils; they have _____ me, the fountain of living waters, and _____ them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water (Jer. 2:13). They rejected God.
- D. God had married Israel; therefore, when Israel divided into two, Israel and Judah, God was married to both. Why did God divorce Israel and Judah (Jer. 3:8; Hosea 13:2-4)? Over

STEPS OF FAITH

Ans. Israel and Judah committed _____ and played the _____ by worshiping other gods. Israel and Judah had left God.

E. Under what conditions would God accept them back (Zech. 3:7)?

Ans. If they would walk in God's ways and keep His _____.

F. The inspired writer said that when God dwells in the midst of the daughter of Zion (=Israel), many nations shall be joined to the Lord and shall be His people (Zech. 2:10-11). When did this come about (Acts 27-12)?

Ans. It happened at _____.

IV. Spiritual application of the concept of divorce for the Church. In previous lessons, we saw that the Church is the bride of Christ. He was wed to Israel (and Judah), but He divorced them because they committed adultery by worshiping other gods (Jer. 3:8) and selected another bride.

A. Can Christians follow the Law of Moses (Rom. 7:4; Gal. 3:21)? Ans. Ye are _____ to the law that ye should be _____ to Christ.

B. The first covenant was replaced because the Lord found _____ with the Hebrews (Hebrews 8:7-8).

C. Paul tells the Church: "For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have _____ you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ (II Cor. 11:2).

V. Discussion Questions

A. Explain why God allows divorce from a spiritual viewpoint.

B. What can a young man and woman do to prevent divorce and the heartache it brings?

STEPS OF FAITH

Children, Blessings from God Chapter 43

INTRODUCTION: Most married couples are thrilled to discover they are expecting their first baby. After the baby comes all is fine until the child is old enough to express an opinion about everything, but too young to understand even the basic consequences of decisions. Then the young parents experience frustration. As the child matures, he or she presents young parents with many difficult problems. Torn between what psychologists feel is the right, what common sense says, and what parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles say, the young couples do not know where to turn for answers.

Many parents overlook the Creator's guidelines for raising children. Later, when the children mature, experiment with drugs and alcohol, leave home, and forget their parent's religious values, the couples wonder what they did wrong as they grieve for their precious children. Quite simply, their children never fully embraced the parent's values to begin with. God, who created children, knows how to raise them.

I. Children in Old Testament times.

- A. Are children special to God? Ans. "Lo, children are a _____ of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward (Ps. 127:3).
- B. Is there a time when a child does not know the difference between good and evil (Is 7:16)? (Explain when this might be.)

Ans. _____

- C. Even a child is known by his _____ (Pr. 20:11).
- D. God warned the prophet Eli that his sinful sons behavior was _____ (I Sam. 2:22-25)?
- E. Were these sons of Eli little children or older youths close to adulthood or possibly adults (I Sam. 2:22)? Check the correct choice.
- _____ 1. little children
- _____ 2. older youths close to adulthood or possibly adults
- F. What did Eli do to correct the young men's behavior (I Sam. 2:25)?

STEPS OF FAITH

Ans. _____

G. Does God expect parents to discipline their children (I Sam. 3:12-13)?

Ans. _____

H. _____ thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul (Prov. 29:17).

I. The _____ and _____ give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame (Prov. 29:15).

J. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of _____ shall drive it far from him (Prov. 22:15).

K. How should a parent deal with a very difficult child (Prov. 23:13)?

Ans. _____

To some, this verse sounds like God is mandating abuse, but that interpretation doesn't agree with other verses (Ps. 127:2-5; Mark 10:13-16; Col.3:21). Clearly, the author advocates spanking a child with an instrument if necessary. However, punishment should fit the behavior, the temperament, and the age of the child.

In addition, parents should realize that since children are much smaller than adults, furious adults may seriously injure or kill a small youngster. Parents must discipline children consistency and compassion.

STEPS OF FAITH

L. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him

_____ him betimes" (Prov. 13:24).

M. "_____ thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (Pr. 29:17).

N. A mother can threaten disobedient children and let the father carry out discipline when he arrives (Ecc. 8:11). Agree or disagree and explain.

Ans. _____

O. Should a parent expect a child to follow a parent's choice of employment (Prov. 22:6)?

Ans. _____

P. "A _____ son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke" (Pr. 13:1).

Q. "_____ thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Pr. 19:18).

R. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine

heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy _____,

and shalt talk of them when thou _____ in thine house, and

when thou _____ by the way, and when thou _____ down, and when thou _____ up. And thou shalt bind them for

a sign upon thine _____, and they shall be as _____ between thine eyes (Deut. 6:6-9; 11:18-23).

STEPS OF FAITH

The ancient Israelites were admonished by God to constantly instruct their children and themselves in the Law. God clearly wanted them to keep His laws foremost in their lives.

Today, we are challenged by a better covenant (Heb. 8:6). How much more should we study (II Tim. 2:15) the word and teach it to all willing to listen (Col. 3:16)! In fact, one of the most important responsibilities parents have is the religious education of their children. Although both parents must share this duty, prepared fathers should take the lead. In addition, challenging Bible classes for all ages taught by well-prepared instructors reinforce parental Bible instruction, but a Bible class can not substitute for daily parental instruction. A "challenging Bible class" is one that focuses on Bible facts that are geared to a particular age group. Crafts are fun, but they won't save one soul.

- II. In the New Testament time, the Lord encouraged Christian parents to establish a more sensitive relationship with their children than we see in the Old Testament.

A. Jesus said if anyone caused one of these little ones which believe in

Him to _____, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea (Matt. 18:2-6).

"Stumble" doesn't mean to almost fall down, but to err from the truth, to sin (Guthrie, etc. p. 839). False teaching can do this, but so can abuse when the abuser is supposed to be a member of the Church.

B. Do children understand things in the same manner as an adult (I Cor. 13:11)?

Ans. _____

C. Give two reasons why children should obey their parents: for this is...

1. _____ (Col. 3:20).

2. _____ (Eph. 6:1).

D. "_____ thy father and mother; which is the first commandment

with _____; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest

STEPS OF FAITH

live long on the earth” (Eph. 6:2-3).

- E. And ye _____ provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4).

Note who the Lord admonished to nurture and admonish children. This doesn't exclude women from nurturing or admonishing, but it does place responsibility on the father.

- F. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be _____ (Col. 3:21).

- G. (A bishop is) One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in _____ with all gravity... (I Tim. 3:4).

- H. Older women are to teach younger women to love their _____ and to love their _____ (Tit. 2:9).

- I. When writing to Timothy, Paul recalls the unfeigned faith that he recognized in Timothy's grandmother _____ and in his mother, _____ and in Timothy (Acts 16:1; II Tim. 1:5; 3:15).

These verses suggest that Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him more about God than his father did.

III. Discussion questions.

- A. What are some options for disciplining a willful child?
- B. Suppose your teen daughter wants to purchase and wear a skirt or top that reveals too much. How can you persuade her that clothing sends messages (Pr. 7:10; I Tim. 2:9)?
- C. You discover your teenage son has been looking at web sites that contain violence, nudity, and sex. What do you tell him?
- D. Why are many teens so difficult to guide?

STEPS OF FAITH

- E. How does God feel about older children mistreating their parents (Levit. 20:9; Deut. 27:16.; Prov. 20:11)?

Conclusion Chapter 44

CONCLUSION: We have seen what the Bible, God's Word, says about Christ, the church, Christians, relationships and the destiny of mankind. We have also studied about how to become a Christian, a member of Christ's church, and to inherit the blessings reserved for him or her.

Love motivates us to ask non-Christians: Are these promises and blessings for you? Can you espouse this way of life? We have seen that to become a Christian, we must love God. This love prompts us to obey His Word. It is evident from the Bible that we must believe in God and in Christ, confess Christ is the Son of God, repent of our sins, and wash away our sins in the waters of baptism in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Then God adds us to the church of His choice, the one His Son died to save. We become part of the family of God, heirs of the eternal blessings we have in Christ. We understand that we can lose our inheritance if we leave the family or sin without asking for forgiveness. We have seen how the Lord's church is organized.

After we have taken the first steps, our work and trial begins. We will be tested every day. We choose hourly to obey God, to walk in the light, and to seek His truth. As we study the Bible and properly apply it to our lives, we will become more like Christ. After we become Christians, we will also want to help others learn about the promises of Christ and the church Christ purchased so that they might share Heaven with us. We become a new person with new interests, hopes, and expectations.

Appendix Baptism for the dead: (I Cor. 15:29)

This passage has puzzled many people. It has caused scholars of one religious group to propose a false doctrine in an effort to explain what it means. A number of ways to understand what the passage is saying exist without resorting to the idea that it teaches we can be baptized for people who have died. To understand any passage, we must consider the entire chapter, including to whom it was written and the circumstances. Below is one way to look at it:

STEPS OF FAITH

1 Cor. 15:1-4. Paul preached that Christ was buried and raised from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:4-11. Many people living at that time saw Christ after He was raised from the dead. Based on their testimony, it is apparent that God has the power to raise people from the dead.

1 Cor. 15:12-24. False teachers were denying the doctrine of the resurrection of the dead. These teachers were undermining the teaching of the apostles and they were denying Christ.

1 Cor. 15:25-32. Paul makes his final logical deductions in his argument against these false teachers. Although these teachers were teaching that there was no resurrection of the dead, they were baptizing people for folks who had died out of Christ. This action is absurd, illogical, and false. Paul's argument says in effect, "If you are denying that there is a resurrection and a future life, why are you baptizing people?" According to the logic of these false teachers, there is no way dead people can go to Heaven, since they say there is no resurrection.

Selected References

Barnes, Albert, *Notes on the New Testament, Matt.-Mark*, 1982.

J. D. Douglas, ed., *The New Bible Dictionary*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1973.

D. Guthrie, J. A. Motyer, A.M. Stibbs, D.J. Wiseman, eds., *The New Bible Commentary: Revised*, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Mich., 1971.

King James Version of the Holy Bible

Kurfees, M. C., reprinted in 1975, *Instrumental Music in Worship*, Gospel Advocate Pub. (First pub. In 1911).

Schaff, Philip, editor. *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*. vol. 1, 2007 (First pub. in 1886).

STEPS OF FAITH

Strong, James. *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1984.

Thomas, Leslie G., *Restoration Handbook*, Gospel Advocate 1954.

Tolle, James. *The One Baptism*, Haun Publishing. This is a tract.

Wall, William. *History of Infant Baptism*, vol. 1, Gail Ecco Pub. (Currently. There are older editions back into the late 1800s to early 1900).

Winkler, Wendell, *What Do You Know About The Holy Spirit?* 1980, E. Edwin Manney Co. Pub., Ft. Worth, Texas

