

PREACHERS' HELP
A COURSE IN BASIC CHRISTIAN TEACHING
STUDY 1 THE NEW BIRTH

[Note that all quotations are from the Revised Authorised Version of the Bible (NKJV), 1982]

A. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BORN AGAIN?

1. God makes us spiritually alive.

Even when we were dead in trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ. (Ephesians 2:5)

1. What made us spiritually dead?
 2. Who alone can raise us up from spiritual death?
 3. Who gave us his life?
2. God's Holy Spirit causes us to be born again.

Jesus answered ... that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:5-7)

4. Who gives us our flesh?
5. Who gives us spiritual life?
6. Must we be born again?

B. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN?

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you. (1 Peter 1:3)

7. Why do we bless God?
8. How did God cause us to be begotten (born again) to a living hope?
9. Where does every Christian who has this **living hope** go to?

C. HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN?

1. It is God who calls us to be Christians.

(a) The sort of person God calls:

God demonstrates his own love towards us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

10. How did God prove his love?
11. Do we deserve his love?
12. Whom did Christ die for?
13. Where did he die for us?

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

14. What did God do to prove his love to the world?
15. What does **only begotten Son** mean?
16. What does **perish** mean?
17. How do we obtain everlasting life?
18. Where will this everlasting life take us?

(b) The spiritually needy.

[Jesus said] ... If I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you ... And when he has come, he will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement. (John 16:7-8)

19. Who helps us in our spiritual need?
20. What does **convict the world of sin** mean?
21. Can anyone be born right with God naturally?

22. When will the judgement be?

[Jesus said], For this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:28)

23. Where did the Lord Jesus shed his blood?

24. Why did he do that?

25. For whom did Jesus die according to this verse?

The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin ... If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7, 9)

26. What alone can make us clean from all our sin?

27. What does God want us to do about our sin?

28. Will God forgive us our sins?

29. What does forgiveness mean?

30. What does the word **cleanse** mean?

2. God changes our lives.

(a) We must have faith in Jesus Christ.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

31. What does **grace** mean?

32. How can we receive salvation?

33. What would we do if we could save ourselves?

34. Who gives us salvation?

35. Can we do anything to earn our salvation?

(b) We become like spiritual babies.

And Jesus called a little child to him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Assuredly, I say to you, Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:2-3)

36. What does **converted** mean?

37. What have all of God's children the right to do?

STUDY 2. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

A. WHO SAVES US?

1. God is the source of our salvation

But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD. He is their strength in the time of trouble.
(Psalm 37:39)

1. Does salvation make us right with God?
2. Why do you think that God is called **the LORD**?
3. What does he do when we are in trouble?

2. God saves us when we hear the gospel.

In [Christ] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Ephesians 1:13)

4. What is the difference between hearing and trusting?
5. Explain why you cannot believe in Christ without hearing the gospel?
6. Say how hearing the Gospel does not automatically lead to salvation?
7. In which ways could you hear the gospel today?
8. Where would you find the gospel written down?
9. What also happens when you believe in Christ?

3. God saves us through Jesus Christ.

Let it be known to you all ... that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man stands here before you whole ... Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we must be saved?
(Acts 4:10, 12)

10. In whose name does salvation come?
11. Why is Jesus called **of Nazareth**?
12. What two things happened to Jesus, that salvation might come?
13. Explain why no one else can save us?

B. FROM WHAT ARE WE SAVED?

1. We are delivered from our sins.

And she [Mary] will bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS, for he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)

14. How do we know that Jesus was human like us?
15. What was his human name?
16. What does this name mean?
17. Whom will he save?
18. What will he save them from?

2. We are saved from God's anger.

But God demonstrates his own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (Romans 5:8-10)

19. How did God prove that he loves us?
20. From what will we be saved?
21. Why is God angry with us?
22. How do we become reconciled with God?
23. How are we saved?

3. We are saved from God's judgement.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. (John 3:17)

24. What did God send Jesus into the world **not** to do?
25. Why, then, did Jesus come?
26. Will every one be saved?

C. WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE ARE SAVED?

1. We must tell others.

You will be saved if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. (Romans 10:9)

27. What is the first thing we must do when we are saved?
28. What must we believe?
29. If Jesus is alive today, how does this help us in witnessing to others?

2. We will persevere in the Christian life.

[Jesus said], But he who endures to the end will be saved. (Matthew 10:22)

30. What does it mean to **endure**?
31. Who helps us to do this?
32. What does **the end** mean?

D. WHO, THEN, ARE SAVED?

1. True believers.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes... as it is written, The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:16-17)

33. What was Paul **not** ashamed of?
34. Why was he not ashamed?
35. Who are the saved?
36. What is the effect of faith?

2. Those whom God calls.

Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord... but share with me in the suffering for the Gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ before time began. (2 Timothy 1:8-9)

37. Why does the gospel bring suffering?
38. What did God do when he saved us?
39. Was this because of anything we did?
40. Why did God call us?
41. What does **grace** mean?
42. **When** did God decide to save us in Jesus Christ?

STUDY 3. ON BEING A CHRISTIAN

A. THE STATE OF A CHRISTIAN.

1. Everything must be examined carefully.

Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

(1 Thessalonians 5:21-24)

1. What should Christians do about the things they practise?
2. Why?
3. What should we do about anything that seems doubtful to us?
4. What is God going to do to us?
5. What three things should be without blame when Jesus comes again?
6. How do we know that God will help us make the right choices?

2. Every Christian is a saint.

... through whom we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ. To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints.

(Romans 1:5-7)

7. With what should Christians match their faith?
8. Who calls them?
9. What does God feel towards his saints?

3. What is a saint?

(a) Set apart from sin.

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the person who wants to do good... For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. (Romans 7:21-22)

10. What new law does a Christian find in operation?
11. How has this been true in your experience?
12. What do Christians feel towards God's commandments?

(b) Set apart for God's service.

For you are the temple of the living God. As God said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:16-18)

13. What makes us want to live a clean, moral life?
14. What must Christians do about doubtful and dirty things?
15. What else must they do?
16. What does this tell us about God?
17. What does God make us?

B. WHY IS THE WORLD SO BAD?

1. The devil has spoilt it.

He who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. (1 John 5:18-19)

18. Who keeps us from evil things?
19. What can the devil **not** do?
20. How do we know that the devil has great power over the whole world?

2. The world is at present opposed to God.

[Jesus said], If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. (John 15:18)

21. Why did the world hate Jesus?
22. What does the world do to those who love Jesus?

3. The world is impure.

They [Christians] have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 2:20)

- 23. What have Christians escaped from?
- 24. Give some examples of these things?
- 25. How do we escape them?

STUDY 4. THE CHRISTIAN IN THE WORLD

A. WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS THINK OF THE WORLD?

1. In the world, but not of it.

[Jesus prayed] I have given them your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that you should take them out of the world, but you should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
(John 17:14-16)

1. What does Jesus give to every Christian?
2. How does this help us to live the Christian life?
3. Why do so many in the world hate Christians?
4. Does Jesus want Christians to be taken out of the world?
5. What are all Christians protected from?

2. Christians must not live worldly lives.

Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

6. How does God recognise true Christians?
7. What practical things can Christians do these days?
8. What things of the world could **stain** us?

B. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHRISTIAN BECOMES WORLDLY?

1. He conforms to worldly standards.

Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

9. What should we do with our bodies?
10. Is this reasonable?
11. What does **conformed to the world** mean?
12. What should we want to do?

2. He lives a self-indulgent life.

And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:25-27)

13. Why do athletes run races?
14. What do they have to do to win?
15. What do Christians look forward to?
16. What would make us disqualified?

3. He never grows up into a mature Christian.

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people, but as to carnal [fleshly, or, worldly], as to babes in Christ ... for you are still carnal. For where there is envy, strife and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men. (1 Corinthians 3:1, 3)

17. How does Paul describe these Christians?
18. Why does he call them **babes in Christ**?
19. What bad things were they doing?

C. WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS AVOID WORLDLINESS?

1. Because of what Jesus has done for us.

But God forbid that I should glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)

20. What may Christians glory in?
21. Where was the world crucified to Paul?
22. Why does the world make us do wrong things?

2. Because of what is in store for us.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus.
(Titus 2:11-13)

23. What has God done for every Christian?
24. Which two things should we avoid?
25. What do Christians look forward to?

D. OUR CONSCIENCES

1. Some things we must definitely avoid.

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revels. And the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I told you in times past, that those who practise such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.
(Galatians 5:19-21)

26. Concerning these bad things, which two do you consider the worst, and say why?
27. What will happen to so-called Christians who habitually do these things?

2. The example of good Christians can guide us.

[Think of the] conscience, I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? (1 Corinthians 10:29)

28. How can the conscience of young Christians be guided?
29. Why did Paul limit his behaviour?
30. Have you ever stopped doing something because it might offend a new Christian?

If 'YES': describe the occasion.

If 'NO' : describe something you might stop doing for the sake of another believer.

STUDY 5. PRAYER

A. THE NEED FOR PRAYER.

1. God encourages all Christians to pray.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

1. What should Christians **not** do?
 2. What should we pray about?
 3. Why should we pray **with thanksgiving**?
 4. When we pray, what will fill our hearts and minds?
2. God always answers our prayers.

Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened ... If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-8, 11)

5. Which three words are used here to describe prayer?
6. What will happen when we pray?
7. What can even bad fathers do for their children?
8. What will our heavenly Father give us?

B. HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

1. Prayers are usually addressed to God our heavenly Father. (Luke 11:1-2)

As [Jesus] was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, that one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. He said to them, When you pray, say:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,**

9. What was Jesus himself doing?
 10. What did a disciple ask him?
 11. How did Jesus say we should address God?
 12. What three things are stated here about God?
2. Prayers should end with the name of Jesus Christ.

And whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it. (John 14:13-14)

13. What is special about the name of Jesus?
14. Why is Jesus Christ able to answer prayer?
15. What happens to the Father when we pray in Jesus' name?
16. What happens to prayers offered in Jesus' name?

3. Our act of praying is helped by the Holy Spirit

Likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray. For as we ought, but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8:26)

17. Who is the Spirit?
18. What will he do for believers?
19. Read the next few verses, and say what the Holy Spirit does for us in heaven?

C. WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY ABOUT?

1. We need to confess our sins to God.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. (Psalm 66:18-19)

20. What prevents God from hearing our prayer?
21. How do we know that God listened to the psalmist's prayer?
22. What did God do, when the psalmist prayed?

2. We need to thank God for all his blessings.

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

23. How many times should we pray?

24. What must we do to stop our minds wandering in prayer?

25. What is the best thing for keeping our minds alert in prayer?

3. We can ask God for many things.

In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

26. Can we ask God concerning **anything**?

27. Does God listen to requests?

28. What good requests can you think of?

D. WHEN CAN WE PRAY?

1. In private.

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:6)

29. Where should we pray?

30. Why shut the door?

31. Can God hear secret prayers?

32. What will he do?

2. We can pray to God at any time.

Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

33. Does this mean we should pray all the time?

34. Can you think of times that need special prayer?

3. We can pray out loud among other Christians.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. (Acts 1:14)

35. What does **one accord** mean?

36. Did they pray together often?

37. What do we call these times of prayer together?

4. We should have a habit of praying at set times.

And in his [Daniel's] upper room... he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. (Daniel 6:10)

38. Where did Daniel pray?

39. How many times a day?

40. Did he do this every day?

STUDY 6. THE BIBLE

A. WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

1. The first part is called the **OLD TESTAMENT**.

It contains 39 Books in FIVE sections. It begins with the creation of the world, and ends about 400 years before the coming of Jesus Christ.

(a) Books of the Law (5) : Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

(b) Books of History (12) : Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1&2, 1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

(c) Books of wisdom (3) : Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes

(d) Books of Poetry (3) : Psalms, Song of Solomon, Lamentations.

(e) Books of Prophecy (16): Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.

2. The second part is called the **NEW TESTAMENT**.

All these books were written after the death and resurrection of Christ. They describe his birth and life, and the early years of the Christian Church.

The NEW TESTAMENT contains 27 books, in FOUR sections.

(a) The Gospels (4) : Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

(b) The Acts (1) : Acts of the Apostles.

(c) Letters (21) : Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1 & 2 & 3 John, Jude.

(d) Prophecy (1) : Revelation.

39 (OT) + 27 (NT) = 66 books in the Bible

B. WHAT IS THE BIBLE ABOUT?

1. It is about God, and what he has revealed concerning himself in his creation.

What may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20)

1. Where does God show that he exists?
2. How does God prove to us that he exists?
3. What three things can we discover about God?
4. Can you think of something in the Bible about God that cannot be discovered in nature?

2. It is about mankind, and it is about sin.

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

5. Who have sinned?
6. What have sinner lost?
7. Why is it that no one can avoid sinning?

3. It is about salvation from sin through Jesus Christ.

We also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses...But the free gift is not like the offence...the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. (Romans 5:11-15)

8. Who reconciles us to God?
9. Who brought sin into the world?
10. What did sin bring into the world?
11. Why has everyone sinned?
12. Who brings **the gift of grace** to many?

C. WHY DO WE NEED TO READ THE BIBLE?

1. Because it tells us of God's plan of salvation.

And that from childhood you [Timothy] have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)

13. Who was taught the Bible when he was a child?
14. What help was his reading of the Scripture to him?
15. What marvellous effect did this lead to?

2. Because it helps us grow in the Christian Faith.

Like newly born babies, long for the pure milk of the Word, so that by it you will grow in your understanding and experience of salvation. (1 Peter 2:2)

16. What do babies long for?
17. What can the Bible be compared with?
18. What does the Bible do for Christians that read it?

STUDY 7. THE CHURCH

A. TITLES FOR THE CHURCH

1. Christ's flock.

Therefore [you elders] take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which he purchased with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

1. To whom does the Church belong?
2. How is it described here?
3. Who is the Shepherd?

2. Christ's Body

And [God] put all things under [Christ's] feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body. (Ephesians 1:22-23)

4. What great honour did God grant his Son?
5. Who is the Head of the Church?
6. What is the Church?
7. What is meant by **head**?

3. God's household.

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:19-21)

8. Who belongs to God's household?
9. What is the foundation?
10. Who is the corner-stone?
11. What else is the Church called?

4. Christ's Bride.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Revelation 21:2)

12. Where are Christians who have died?
13. What is the name of their dwelling place?
14. Who is the Bride?
15. Who is the husband?

B. WHO BELONGS TO THE CHURCH?

1. Believers who confess Jesus Christ.

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

16. What must a Christian do?
17. What must every Christian believe about Christ?
18. What happens to every Christian?
19. Does this make every Christian a part of the Church?

2. Those who accept the preached Word of God.

The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptised, and she begged us, saying, If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house to stay. And she constrained us. (Acts 16:14-15)

20. Who became a Christian on this occasion?
21. What did God do for her?
22. Who baptised her?
23. Where did the Church in Philippi start?

3. Those who are born again.

Jesus answered and said to [Nicodemus], Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

24. What must be the experience of every Christian?
25. What happens next?
26. Is the Church God's kingdom?

C. WHERE IS THE CHURCH?

1. Where Christians meet locally.

(NOTE: The Church is never a building, but is the body of Christians whenever they meet together.)

So it was that for a whole year they [Paul and Barnabas] assembled with the church [in Antioch], and taught a great many people. (Acts 11:26)

27. Where was the Church on this occasion?
28. Who was their Bible teacher?
29. How many came to Church?

2. All over the world.

Give no offence, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the whole church of God. (1 Corinthians 10:32)

30. Name two groups of Christians in the Church?
31. Would they be found everywhere?
32. What should **not** be done to the Church members world-wide?

3. On earth and in heaven.

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born who are registered in heaven. (Hebrews 12:22-23)

33. What does **general assembly** mean?
34. Where is our church membership written down?

STUDY 8. CHRISTIAN GIVING

A. REASONS FOR GIVING

1. Everything comes from God.

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. (Psalm 24:1)

1. Who does the world belong to?
2. Do people belong to God?
3. Are people's belongings really their own?
4. In the world, what does **not** come from God?

2. A willingness to give.

Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly, because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord; and King David also rejoiced greatly ... and said, We thank you and praise your glorious name. But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly as this? For all things come from you, and of your own we have given you. (1 Chronicles 29:9, 13)

5. What did the people do when they gave?
6. Were their gifts to the Lord given willingly?
7. How did they give them?
8. Where did their gifts come from?

3. God is a great giver.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

9. How do we know God enjoys giving?
10. What was his greatest gift?
11. Why did he give it?

4. Giving is a help to others.

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver ... For the administration not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God. (2 Corinthians 9:7, 12)

12. What should we do before giving?
13. What does God especially love?
14. Is giving a ministry?
15. How does it help other people?
16. What does giving do in regard to God?

5. Giving supports God's servants.

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double support, especially those who labour in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain, and, The labourer is worthy of his wages. (1 Timothy 5:17-18)

17. What are the two things that elders do in the Church?
18. Should they be paid well?
19. What was an ox allowed to do when threshing the corn?
20. How does this apply to ministers?

B. WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT MONEY.

1. It is bad to love money.

And [Jesus] said to them, Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses ... So is he [foolish] who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. (Luke 12:15, 21)

21. What did Jesus say we should beware of?
22. Could we ever have more than enough?
23. Should we live for possessions and money?
24. Who is a fool?
25. What is the very best thing we can do?

2. The love of money ruins our loyalty to God.

[Jesus said], No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God mammon. Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided him. (Luke 16:13-14)

26. What are the two masters in this world?
27. Which one must Christians reject?
28. Who loved money?
29. Were they very religious people?
30. What did they do as Jesus condemned their love of money?

C. THE ACT OF GIVING.

1. How **not** to give.

Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound your trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:2-4)

31. What does **sound your own trumpet** mean?
32. What do hypocrites want more than anything else?
33. How should Christians give?
34. Why?

2. How much?

(a) In proportion to our income

A prophet named Agabus said in the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. The disciples in Antioch determined to send a proportion of what they had to relieve the Christians living in Judea. (Acts 11:28-30)

35. Who said that there would be a famine?
36. Are there famines to be relieved today?
37. Who are the needy Christians today?
38. How much did the Antioch Christians give?

(b) Increasing our gifts as we receive more

Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: on the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, there be no collections when I come. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

39. Did the Corinthian Christians need to have special collections?
40. What did they have to do?
41. When should they increase their giving?

STUDY 9. THE COMMUNION SERVICE

A. DIFFERENT DESCRIPTIONS OF THE COMMUNION SERVICE.

1. The Passover.

Then [Jesus] said to [his disciples], With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer ... (Luke 22:15)

1. What did Jesus long to do?
2. Who ate the Passover with Jesus?
3. What died at the first Passover?
4. How did Jesus fulfil this?

2. The Lord's Supper.

And supper being ended ... Jesus ... rose from supper and, laid aside his garments, took a towel and girded himself. After that, he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet. (John 13:2, 4-5)

5. What terrible thing happened at the Lord's Supper?
6. What two things did Jesus pick up after the meal?
7. What did Jesus do with them?
8. What lesson did Jesus teach his disciples?

3. The Breaking of Bread.

And the [the disciples] continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers ... So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart. (Acts 2:42, 46)

9. How often did the Christians celebrate Communion?
10. Where did they **break bread**?
11. Why did they break bread?

B. HOW SHOULD THE COMMUNION BE CELEBRATED?

[Paul said], For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of me. (1 Corinthians 11:23-28)

12. Who told the Christians how to celebrate the Communion?
13. When did the first Communion take place?
14. Who betrayed Jesus into the hands of his enemies?
15. What did Jesus do first?
16. What did he do next?
17. What does the bread represent?

[Paul continues] - In the same manner [Jesus] also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

18. What else did Jesus do?
19. Why was the cup compared with blood?
20. What is **the New Covenant**?
21. When can the Communion take place?

IT SEEMS SUCH A WASTE OF A PAGE!

It would help us tremendously if you could write us something on the following:

(1) How you became a Christian.

(2) How you came to be baptised, and the circumstances that led up to it.

(3) Your reactions to doing this particular Basic Course.

God bless you in your work and ministry in the gospel!

Geoffrey Stonier
(International Director, Preachers' Help)

STUDY 10. BELIEVER'S' BAPTISM

A. THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM

1. Jesus himself was baptised.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him. And John tried to prevent him saying, I need to be baptised by you, and are you coming to me? But Jesus answered and said to him, Permit to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he allowed him. Then Jesus, when he had been baptised, came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:13-17)

1. Who baptised Jesus?
2. Where was Jesus baptised?
3. Why was he baptised?
4. What rested on Jesus after the baptism?
5. What two things did God say about his Son?

2. Jesus had his followers baptised.

After these things Jesus and his disciples came into the land of Judea, and there he remained with them and baptised...(though Jesus himself did not baptise, but his disciples). (John 3:22; 4:2)

6. Did Jesus agree with the practice of baptism?
7. Did Jesus do any baptising?
8. Who baptised those who followed Jesus?

3. The Apostles demanded believer's baptism.

Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let each of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of Sins... Then those who gladly received his word were baptised. (Acts 2:38, 41)

9. Who was preaching about baptism?
10. How were they to be baptised?
11. What is baptism a sign of?
12. Were those who heard Peter preaching baptised?

4. Jesus commanded baptism for all Christians.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son the of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20)

13. What is the task of all Christians in the world?
14. What should be done to new Christians?
15. How should it be done?
16. Did Jesus command baptism?

B. HOW SHOULD BELIEVERS BE BAPTISED?

1. Jesus was dipped in the river Jordan.

Then Jesus, when he had been baptised, came up immediately from the water. (Matthew 3:16)

17. Did the baptism of Jesus take long?
18. What does **immediately** means?
19. How do we know John dipped Jesus in the river?

2. Philip the evangelist baptised a new Christian.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water, Philip as well as the Christian; and Philip baptised him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord made Philip go away. (Acts 8:36, 38-39)

20. What is essential for baptism?
21. Who did the baptising?
22. How do we know Philip dipped the Christian in the water?

3. Baptism is for believers only.

And immediately the gaoler was baptised by Paul, he and his household. And he rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household. (Acts 16:33-34)

23. Who were baptised?
24. Who did the baptising?
25. Did they enjoy being baptised?
26. What did they do before being baptised?
27. What did they do afterwards?
28. Who believed and then were baptised?

C. BAPTISM IS A PICTURE OF THE BELIEVER'S EXPERIENCE

1. It follows saving faith.

Peter said, Repent, and let each of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38)

29. What is required before baptism?
30. What does this mean?
31. Which word shows that every believer should be baptised?
32. In whose name were they to be baptised?

2. Baptism is a picture of the new life in Christ.

We have been buried with Christ through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)

33. How is baptism like a burial?
34. From what was Jesus raised?
35. What will believers do after their conversion?
36. How is baptism a picture of this?