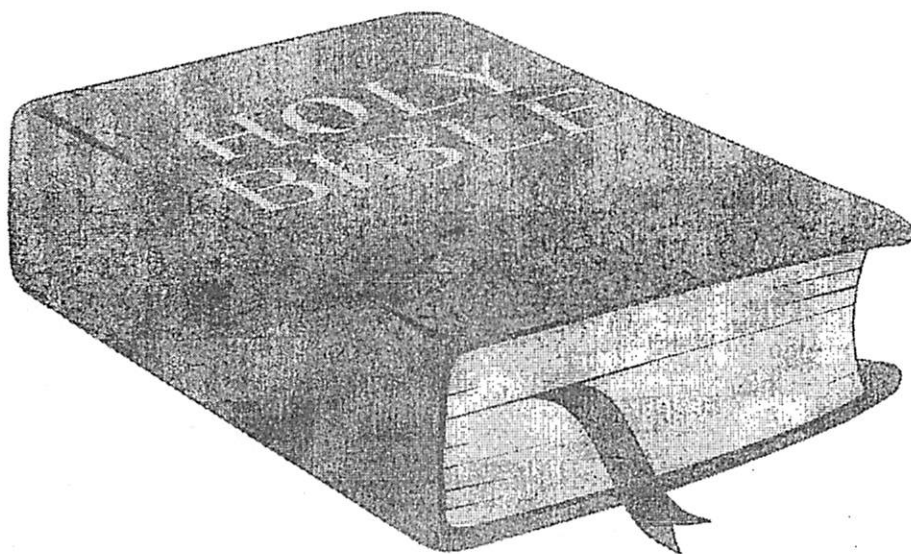


THE WORD
of
GOD



Not to be Sold

**THE WORD
OF
GOD**

BY

REV. DR. ANDREW J. LOSIER

NOT TO BE SOLD

PREFACE

I was asked by my beloved brother K.C. Quek to prepare something on "The Word of God" for free distribution, and I am grateful to my brother for this suggestion, and highly honored.

Sometimes we miss the power of God through the Holy Spirit in these writings, by placing more emphasis on the individual writers. However, the most important factor in the Bible being God's Word, is that it is "God breathed." *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

We are responsible before God to defend the faith, which was once delivered unto the saints. We are reminded, *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* 2 Timothy 1:7. We are living in the last days, before the Lord Himself will come and deliver us out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess 1:10.) May we also realize, *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."* 2 Timothy 3:1. Praise God we are kept by the power of Almighty God. *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."* 1 John 4:4. May our heart, mind and soul be established within the Word of God.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

FOREWORD

I have asked Dr. K.C. Quek to write the foreword of this booklet on The Word of God. I have known this very humble brother for many years and I thank God for him as a precious brother in the Lord. May I present to you God's saint, Dr. K.C. Quek.

I am grateful for the privilege of adding to this most important subject, "The Inspired Word of God". Dr. Andrew J. Losier has been a missionary in Africa since 1938, and has extended the mission work around the world. This work is a non profit mission outreach through Biblical textbooks, reaching hundreds of thousands of Nationals around the world. With the upcoming printing of some 115,000 Biblical textbooks, there will soon be one million of these Biblical textbooks in circulation. *"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God"* Romans 10:17.

There is no substitute for the inspired Word of God, and I rejoice with Dr Andrew J. Losier, as he sends forth this most important study on God's Written Word. We can depend upon God's Word to reach precious souls for whom Christ died. *"For the Word of God is alive, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Hebrews 4:12.

It is our responsibility to hold forth the Word of God as defenders of the faith, giving Christ the preeminent place in our lives. There are many false teachings going forth in the name of religion, and God is using such men as Dr. Andrew Losier, to establish doctrinal truth. Our National Christian leaders under the I.C.C.C. are in need of these timely Biblical teachings. May God richly use this forthcoming Biblical textbook, for His glory, honor and praise.

Yours in the service of our soon coming Redeemer

Rev. Dr. K. C. Quek

DEDICATION

If ever I have known a "Defender of the Faith" it is Dr. Carl McIntire, the founder and President of the International Christian Council of Churches. He has always stood firm upon his belief according to the Scriptures. He is a man of God who does not believe in compromising in any way. Materially, he has suffered much, due to his strong convictions, and many have left him to carry this tremendous burden. I thank God for a man of God who is willing to stand alone upon the Word of God, regardless of the cost.

This past 14th., of July was a glorious mile stone in Dr. Carl McIntire's life, as he was joined in holy matrimony to Alice Goff, who has faithfully served the Lord, working for the Christian Beacon for 55 years. We praise God for the great work which she has been doing these many years. As she continues in the work of the Lord, God has called her into a greater partnership than ever! I now wish to dedicate this Biblical textbook, to Dr. Carl and Mrs. Alice McIntire. They are my beloved brother and sister in the Lord. May God keep on keeping on in and through their devoted lives. May God continue to constantly provide them with sufficient strength to continually be defenders of the faith. May God's Word be a constant reminder to each of us, spoken and written through Paul, as he was led of the Holy Spirit. *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 3:13-14. Our brother Carl and sister Alice McIntire have been faithful to their high calling in Christ Jesus and when we all stand before that judgement seat of Christ, there will be many crowns of glory that they will receive to present to Our Redeemer. They shall also hear those words from our Wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who will say unto them, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of the Lord."* Matthew 26:21. May God spare Dr. Carl and Alice McIntire to us for many years to come.

May I leave this verse with our Precious brother Dr. Carl and Alice McIntire. *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* Galatians 6:9.

Yours for the Furthering of the Gospel.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier.

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CHAPTER ONE

The Inspiration of the Word of God. The Multitude of Writers.

Introduction

The Bible which has been translated into many languages and dialects is one of the greatest lines of communications between mankind and Almighty God. In order not to be confused with strange voices, God has given His Word to us through specific writers as they were led by God the Holy Spirit. The original reception of God's message was without error and exactly as God revealed His Word to us. We are aware that there are problems in translating from one language to another and especially where interpolation occurs with the various translators, sometimes adding words. We will consider some of these added words, with their efforts often to make God's statements clearer. However, this does not mean that God's Word becomes void or unusable. As in Greek and Hebrew, we often have a multiple meaning for various words and these can make a difference in what is intended. Sometimes the meanings are very similar, but the wrong meaning could be inferred. For instance, the Hebrew word for Virgin can be interpreted as a young woman, or specifically "A Virgin". But in the case of Isaiah 7:14, the interpretation could only be a virgin, as a special sign to us. Young women having a child is the normal thing and would not be a sign. We will come across many such cases as we study the Word of God and we must always remember that God the Holy Spirit has come upon these various writers, giving them information which all the wisdom of the human race could never reveal. We will deal with such examples as we are enlightened through God's Word.

As we begin our study of the Word of God, may we be aware that the Holy Spirit uses these pen men to reveal God's dealing with mankind. The Bible is not just another study book, but it is God's communication giving us the "Divine Viewpoint". It is but a fraction of the wisdom of God, but it is sufficient wisdom by which we can spend a lifetime studying, and only absorb a small amount of it's teachings. This Book which we call the Bible must not be added to or taken from under any circumstance! My aim in writing this textbook is to help you understand the Bible and rightly divide it rather than wrongly use it. It is a living Word, which the ungodly do not want to hear, but is precious to the saints of God of all ages.

Inspiration.

There are theologians who have some strange understanding of the Bible. From their own "human viewpoint", they spread false doctrines and impressions of the Bible, by declaring that just some of the Bible is inspired, and other portions are fictitious. This is not according to what the Bible teaches. *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* 2 Timothy 3:16-17. May I remind you that God the Holy Spirit breathed these Scriptures and used the writers as instruments in His hands. We have

ample proof from the printed page that these men whom the Holy Spirit used could not understand everything they recorded at the time of the writing. Let us look at some of the proofs as to the inspiration of the Bible.

Biblical Proof.

We do not base our opinions according to the natural man, but rather on supernatural evidence from God's Word. Consider a few of these facts concerning the Bible.

1. Fulfilled prophecy.
2. Biblical statements as to the source. "Thus saith the Lord".
3. God's Bible is essential for all good works.
4. The Bible has over 40 writers, but the same message, without discrepancies.
5. The Bible can be translated easily into all languages, and can be thoroughly understood by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
6. The Bible is the most up to date writings available in the world.
7. The Bible is a living Book and powerful. (Hebrews 4:12.)
8. The Bible must not be added to or taken away. (Rev. 22:18-19.)
9. The Bible portrays the character of the Godhead.

Since the Bible is "God Breathed", we must look beyond the personalities of the writers. As we identify these writers, our emphasis must be upon the message more than these messengers. God the Holy Spirit spoke through these writers. They were chosen from different backgrounds and various walks of life.

From Various Walks of Life.

There are some portions of Scripture in which we are not specifically told just who was the scribe, but sufficient evidence is given so that we can know, "Thus Saith The Lord"! These human vessels to whom God revealed certain truths, were chosen by God to fit the occasion for the revelation which God the Holy Spirit would give them. Sometimes they were aware of the situation, but at other times they wrote as they were led of the Spirit. When one realizes that there were over 40 chosen scribes for the writing of the Bible, and there is one theme with perfect agreement, you stand amazed, knowing that all Scripture was "God Breathed". In natural man's field of writers, it is difficult to get two to agree on one of the various points, let alone 40 writers. May I also add at this point that in the original writings there were no errors whatsoever, being dictated by God the Holy Spirit. Translations from one language to another will always vary somewhat, with a variety of choices to be made in the translations. At this point I wish to give some examples of how the Holy Spirit would sometimes keep the truths secluded temporarily with some of the writers. May I just give you a few examples of some of these marvelous ways in which the Holy Spirit revealed things to come, which the immediate writer knew nothing.

Predictions Completed.

1. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14. - The seed of the woman would conceive as a virgin, giving the Messianic hope that would bruise the head of Satan.
2. Genesis 4:25-26. The generation of Seth chosen as the Messianic lineage.
3. Genesis 6:17-22. A flood by rain which was unknown.
4. Genesis 11:7-9. The confusion of languages. Prior to this they all spoke one language which God had given to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.
5. Genesis 15:3-6. Abraham to be the father of many nations.
6. Genesis 25:5; Romans 9:7. In Isaac only was the promise extended.
7. Genesis 41:14-44. Joseph a chosen vessel by God to preserve Israel.
8. Genesis 49:8-12. Judah chosen through which the Messiah would come.
9. The Book of Exodus and Leviticus in which God established rules and regulations.
10. Deuteronomy 32:8. God separated the nations, giving Israel the promised land.
11. Joshua 10:12-13; 2 Kings 20:10-11. The earth loses one full 24 hour day and the astronomers have discovered this phenomenal change.
12. The Book of Esther reveals God's marvelous protection over the tribe of Judah. The Book of Ruth - "Kinsman Redeemer"
13. Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 predicts the crucifixion of Christ.
14. Isaiah 44:28; 45:1-4. Isaiah names Cyrus scores of years before he was born, and tells how he would defeat Babylon.
15. The Book of Daniel reveals four great Empires before they were ever known in his day.
16. The mystery age of the church which was hidden during Christ's earthly ministry. He presented himself as the King of Righteousness for the kingdom age, and was rejected. (Matthew 16:17-18; 18:17.)
17. Daniel 9:26. The exact time when Christ would be crucified was revealed to Daniel to write it down.
18. Malachi 3:1. John the Baptist, the spirit of Elijah to herald King Jesus.
19. As the Jewish gather back into their homeland, the deserts are blossoming once again. This was prophesied by Amos more than 2,500 years ago. (Amos 9:14-15.)
20. The rebuilding of Jerusalem and the walls in Ezra and Nehemiah's day were under a constant watch against the enemies of Israel, and so today the Arabs are doing their utmost to stop Israel from reclaiming their promised land. The riots in Israel in 1936 is a clear example of the destruction by Arabs. (Ezra 5:5-8; Nehemiah 4:7-8.)
21. The naming of Cyrus as God's anointed who would decree to have Jerusalem rebuilt after the Babylonian destruction. It also predicted just how his troops would enter Babylon. This also predicted the count down to the time when Christ would be crucified. (Isaiah 44:28; Isaiah 45:1. Daniel 9:26.)
22. One of the amazing prediction was the closing of the Golden gate in Jerusalem. God the Holy Spirit caused Ezekiel to write concerning this eastern gate that would be shut after the Lord went through it. (Ezekiel 44:1-3; Matthew 21:4-9; Mark 11:4-11; Luke 19:29-38.) If you go to Jerusalem today, you will find that gate sealed over.

Future Predictions

1. John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 1:10. The Rapture of the true church will take place before the Great Tribulation.
2. Daniel 9:27; Revelation 13:1-18. The Dictator of the world and his false prophet will come forth in great power and establish one world Government under Satan.
3. Revelation 9:1-20; 12:7-12. A great battle shall take place in heaven by Michael the archangel and his armies against Satan and his demons, throwing the evil ones out of heaven to this earth.
3. Malachi 4:1; Revelation 11:3-12. Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15. Elijah will come during the last half of the tribulation to herald the coming of Christ to set up His kingdom. This will be the Abomination of Desolation spoken by Daniel and confirmed by Christ.
4. Revelation 7:9-14. A great revival will take place during the great tribulation.
5. Revelation 14:14-20; 19:17-21. The battle of Armageddon will take place as Christ returns to set up the Millennium kingdom of righteousness.
6. Revelation 19:7-10. The marriage of the Lamb of God will take place in heaven during the great tribulation.
7. Revelation 19:20-20:3. The Beast and false prophet will be cast alive into the lake of fire and remain in torment forever. Satan and his demons will be in the bottomless pit for the duration of one thousand years.
8. Daniel 7:10; Tells of the coming Great White Throne, further predicted in Rev. 20:11-15.
9. Revelation 20:11-15; Philippians 3:9-11. The ungodly and unbelievers will all be raised from the dead to stand before the great white throne judgement before they are cast into the lake of fire forever. They will bow before Christ and confess that He is the Eternal Son of God.
10. 2 Peter 3:10-11. The present heavens and earth will be burned up with fervent heat and be fully dissolved to make room for the new heavens and the earth.
11. 2 Peter 3:12; Revelation 21:1-22:5. God is going to create all things new, both the heavens and the earth and Paradise, with a Holy New Jerusalem City between.
12. All sin and evil forces will be done away and never appear again in the New Heavens and the New Earth. Daniel 9:24.

I have given you plenty of proof that the Bible is the Word of God, for no one upon earth could predict such as is recorded in the Bible, and especially in Ezekiel, Daniel and Revelation. Why do we believe this? The evidence and facts are ever present with us, with all of the fulfilled prophecy, completed exactly as God said it would. Therefore we can trust His word for the future and may we just quote from the Word of God. *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him, God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"* Hebrews 2:3-4.

As you study these various writers of the Scripture, bear in mind that they were led in their writings by God the Holy Spirit. These writers of the Scripture were all prepared by Almighty God for this particular undertaking.

"For the Word of God is alive and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:12-13. The Bible is God's Word to mankind and is the most up to date news for all mankind. It can only be thoroughly understood by those who have the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. The Bible has an answer to every possible problem that exists, and is God's direct communication with mankind.

The Necessity of Being Filled by the Holy Spirit.

Certainly, if we as believers are admonished to keep on being filled by God the Holy Spirit, definitely those who were God's recorders had to either have the Holy Spirit come upon them, as in the Old Testament, or continually be filled by the Holy Spirit as were the New Testament writers. Why do I show the difference? I often repeat this in my teaching of the Word of God that in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit would come upon men of old. However since the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came within, the believers, making them new creatures in Christ Jesus. This is the first evidence in the fulfilling of what God recorded in Joel 2:28.

May we turn to the Scriptures and examine examples of this filling by the Holy Spirit. One of the earliest examples during the day of Pentecost which is clearly stated, *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterances."* Acts 2:4. This was to be the norm among all believers for the furthering of the Gospel. Then we have that marvelous testimony of Stephen before the religious council. After Stephen gave a review of the past history of Israel. *"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God."* Acts 7:54-55. Certainly from this we can realize how important it is to keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit in our daily life.

Let us further examine the Scriptures as to the filling of the Holy Spirit. *"Wherefore, be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit,"* Ephesians 5:17-18. These writers who wrote the Bible had to be filled by the Holy Spirit in this great task of giving us communication from God, in writing. God's Word convinces us that they were "led by the Holy Spirit". *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* Romans 8:14. These writers of the Bible had to be directly led by the Holy Spirit to be able to understand the message from the Holy Spirit. Whether the Holy Spirit came upon these writers of the Bible or filled them with Himself, they had to be led by the Spirit so that He could guide them into all truth. May I remind you that the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead, and is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. He has great restraining power in this day and age, for which we can be very thankful. To those who have been born again by the Holy Spirit, He becomes their ever present help and protection against the evil forces. We can be greatly encourage because of this provision by God.

Understanding the Will of God.

Another very important condition for these writers of the Scripture was to know and understand the will of God. They had to be separated from the conformity of this life. The Word of God says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Romans 12:1-2. If this is a command to all believers, certainly it applies to those who have been appointed to the writing of the Bible.

We may wonder that God chooses various ones and eliminates others, even before they are born. In Malachi 1:2-3, we have a clear example as to God's omniscience. "I loved Jacob, and I hated Esau." This may seem strange that God is a respecter of persons, but that is not the case. God in His Omniscience knew before hand that Esau would reject God and follow strange gods. In Romans 9:14-18. God hardened Pharaoh's heart. But if you study the Book of Exodus, concerning Pharaoh, you will discover that Pharaoh first hardened his heart. In no way is God unrighteous. He is the Potter and we are the clay. God uses writers of the Scriptures, who are prepared for that task, and filled with Divine viewpoint.

As we read and study the whole Bible we become aware that God deals with human beings as they are and sin is always considered sin, regardless of who commits it. There are passages recorded in the Bible that we find hard to understand, but God had a purpose in revealing the total depravity of man, in spite of who it may be. These writers of the Bible were human beings just like we are and they had similar temptations as others. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, being led by the Holy Spirit, said, *"For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."* 2 Corinthians 4:6-7. May we, as students of God's Word be constantly aware of our total dependence upon God the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. We must depend upon God's Word, rather than our human understanding. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding."* Proverbs 3:5

Understanding the will of God, requires the filling of our lives by God the Holy Spirit. It is not a one time filling but a continual filling, as we constantly study the Word and depend upon the Holy Spirit to teach us. As Saints of God we are of the Royal family of God, but if sin is prevalent, then we are out of fellowship with the family of God and with God himself. Under such circumstance, it is impossible for one to be in the will of God, let alone to understand the will of God. *"Wherefore, laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as new born babies, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."* 1 Peter 2:1-5. Christian growth is essential in order to understand the will of

God for our lives. Knowledge of the Word of God, and applying it to our daily living makes possible our spiritual growth and understanding the Divine viewpoint.

Understanding God's will is a lifetime process. Just because you understand God's will at particular times, does not give you a life time guarantee that all of your opinions are according to God's will. Ministers of the Gospel can become conceited, using authority in a dictatorial way. The following is a brief listing of important conditions that are required in knowing and understanding the will of God.

1. A new birth is required, with the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. (John 3:7; 14:16-17.)
2. Understanding the will of God comes when you keep on being filled by God the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18.)
3. The ability to rightly divide the Word of truth, keeping God's promises in context. (2 Timothy 2:15.)
4. A student of the Holy Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119.)
5. Not grieving the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:30.)
6. Keeping in sweet fellowship with fellow believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:6-10.)
7. Continually confessing our sins and failures to God the Father, through the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:9.)
8. Manifesting the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23.)
9. A Dedicated life to the Lord. (Romans 12:1.)
10. Not conformed to this world system or to your national customs. (Romans 12:2.)

Conclusion

Unless one accepts the Bible as God's Holy Word, there is no ground for promises from God. If one does not accept the authority of the Bible, what claim is there for "after death"? The Everlasting God has given His Word in writing, and His Son for living! Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ there is no hope in this world or life everlasting. The Bible is the Word from God to all mankind. All other religious writings, apart from Biblical truth are in vain. *"Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart"* Psalm 119:2. The Lord has given His Word to us, and we as free moral agents, can accept or reject, but must suffer the consequences. *"Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy Word has quickened me."* Psalm 119:49-50. The choice is yours but the results will be according to God's Word. Apart from God's provision, darkness will prevail over your soul. *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Psalm 119:105. God's Word is established forever and is immutable! We know that it provides the message for our souls, giving us confidence in the future.

Since God the Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible, we must be led by the Holy Spirit in order to understand the Bible. That is why it is necessary to be born again by the Holy Spirit, giving us understanding of God's eternal Word. That final decision is yours, to accept or reject God's Word. Once you accept God's Word, then you will accept God's Son as your Redeemer, who paid the debt of your sins upon the Cross of Calvary. *"Wherewithal shall a young man*

cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy Word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes." Ps. 119:9-12.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER ONE.

1. Of what importance are the chosen writers of the Bible?
2. How can we know that the Bible is infallible?
3. Write an essay on, "The Word of God is inerrable". (Without error)
4. Why do translations of the Bible vary from one language to the other?
5. Why must we teach the Bible in context?
6. Why did the Holy Spirit choose men from various walks of life in writing the Bible?
7. Name some of the outstanding completed predictions in the Bible and give Scripture references.
8. Name some outstanding future predictions within the Bible.
9. Explain Hebrews 2:3-4.
10. Explain Hebrews 4:12-13.
11. Write an essay of 2 Timothy 3:16-17.
12. Explain 2 Timothy 2:15.
13. Why was it necessary for the writers of the Bible to be filled by God the Holy Spirit?
14. Why is it necessary for Bible teachers to be filled with God the Holy Spirit?
15. How can we understand the perfect will of God for our lives as Christians?

CHAPTER TWO

Profitable for Doctrine. The Essential Truth of God.

In 2 Timothy 3:16; it mentions that the Bible is profitable for doctrine. We could ask the question, "Just what is doctrine"? Well the dictionary states that doctrine is a form of teaching. Yes, that is stated simply and to the point. The teaching of the Word of God is not what I think it says, but it must be taught as to what it says, "Thus saith the Lord"! The Word of God is not pragmatic in any aspect, but is based upon the very character of God, which never changes. The Word of God is constant and stable without any variableness. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."* James 1:17-18.

Let us examine the Scriptures and meditate upon them for our personal Christian life as well as imparting these truths to others. We must study the Scriptures with the influence of the Holy Spirit guiding us to understand the doctrines from God's Word "God's viewpoint"!

Rightly Dividing the Word of God

It is true that the Bible must be divided into proper divisions, according to God's plan. Perhaps the most outstanding division that we have is "The Mystery Age", which is known as "The Church Age". This was hidden from the Old Testament saints and revealed to the New Testament saints on the day of Pentecost. May we bear in mind that God's Word is immutable as God Himself. God never changes, for He is the same yesterday, today and forever! God's plan of salvation is based entirely upon the finished work at the Cross, by the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word reminds us to "Rightly Divide" the Word of God, we shouldn't "Wrongly Destroy" portions of it. The Bible is based upon the character of God, which never changes. God often reveals diverse truths and are not always given in sequence. We must understand the perfect plan of God in order to rightly divide the Word of God.

Understanding the Plan of God.

Those who were chosen to write the Word of God did not always know the complete plan of God and we may say that they did not always know what was in the valley as they viewed the high points of God's revelation. There were certain things that Daniel would have loved to have known, but God had to say, *"And I heard, but I understood not. Then said I, O my Lord what shall be the end of these things? And He said, Go thy way, Daniel; for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."* Daniel 12:8-9. The mystery age of the church was absolutely hidden, even during Christ's earthly ministry. But we are without excuse today, for the complete revelation is given to us in these last times. We need to rightly divide God's Word and place the particular revelations into the proper category. This requires us to know the following facts.

1. A Thorough knowledge of the character of God. (Philippians 3:10.)
2. Understand the Plan of God. (Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9; 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:7.)
3. Know to whom God is speaking. (1 John 1:3; 2 Peter 3:16.)
4. Be in fellowship with God. (1 John 1:7.)
5. Be in harmony with God the Holy Spirit who will guide us into all truth. (Ephesians 4:30; John 16:13; Romans 8:14.)
6. Study the Word of God in context. (2 Timothy 2:15.)
7. Differentiate among the various groups of saints. (Old Testament, New Testament, Tribulation, and kingdom saints.)
8. Classify and distinguish the saints of the various ages and their destination. (Since Pentecost we are of the mystery age, differing from the Old Testament, as well as the saints that follow the Rapture.
9. Understanding the total depravity of mankind. (Romans 3:23.)

In understanding the plan of God, we develop an insight into God's dealing with mankind at various stages, in the history. Mankind that lived before the flood were called antediluvian. Those who lived after the flood; were separated in three groups, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. With Shem, we have the promise of the Messianic hope, being closely guarded from the evil forces. We may therefore group all of those believers as recorded in the Bible in the following categories.

1. Antediluvian saints. (Before the flood.)
2. Old Testament saints. (After the flood until Pentecost)
3. New Testament saints (From Pentecost until the Rapture)
4. Tribulation saints. (From Pentecost until the Millennium)
5. Millennium saints.

These are the divisions of believers, with a very specific group of saints which comprise the body of Christ. Their division starts from Pentecost and ends with the Rapture. The body of Christ will become the bride of Christ. That is why we must rightly divide the Word of truth in order to understand the teachings of the Word of God.

God's Separation of the Ages.

1. The Gentiles and the Jews of the Old Testament teachings. (The promise to defeat Satan through the seed of the woman.) (Gen 3:15.)
2. The promise to Abraham as the father of many nations. (Unconditional Covenant to Abraham) (Genesis 15:1-18; 17:1-13.)
3. The Mosaic laws given by God on Mount Sinai to Moses and the children of Israel. (Romans 7:22; Exodus 19:1-25.)
4. The Davidic Covenant that King David would never lack for a king to sit upon the throne. (1 Chronicles 17:11-13; 1 Kings 8:23; 9:5.)

5. The mystery age (From Pentecost until the Rapture.)
6. The Kingdom age (From the battle of Armageddon until the end of a thousand year reign of righteousness.)
7. The Eternal age of perfect and eternal righteousness. (Daniel 9:24.)

Here we want to pause for a few moments to consider the teaching of the Bible, by the guidance of God the Holy Spirit. As you read the Holy Bible, you must remember that it is given by the Holy Spirit. I am aware that each writer had a particular style, of which the Holy Spirit was aware. As the various writers wrote, they were not always conscious of the importance of their writings, but the Holy Spirit used them as chosen vessels, for the glory and praise of God. It is now imperative that we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us into all of these wonderful truths. He is the author of the Bible, which declares the communication from our Heavenly Father.

Understanding the Word of God.

One of the most difficult points in doctrine is to differentiate between law and grace. This involves the purpose of the laws of God and applying the Amazing grace to the Christian way of life. Our zeal toward God should always be governed by our knowledge of God. This knowledge only can come through the Word of God. We are to constantly search the Holy Scriptures, which are alive and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12.) The Triune God has a supreme purpose in all that He has revealed to us in the Bible. I personally find great comfort in what I classify as the key verse of the whole Bible. *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon the holy city, to finish the transgressions, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most High."* Daniel 9:24. This to me helps me to understand the Word of God and God's ultimate and eternal purpose. God has had a supreme purpose in the creation of man, breathing upon him the breath of life, and creating him in the image of God.

The Importance of this Present Earth.

This earth has been separated from the heavenlies, that the total sin question could be dealt with, once and forever. It is true that Christ died for our sins, but He also died, to deal with the total possibility of sin once and forever. Satan and his billions of demons have claimed this earth as their domain and have tried to destroy every thing that God created. Satan has been deprived of his high position in the heavenlies because of his personal choice to sin, but he has maintained his power, but under the sovereignty of God. (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:13-19; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10. Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 4:4.) Regardless of Satan's intentions, God's final dealings with all evil forces, will take place in according to God's time table. God is going to reclaim every inch of His domain in His own time. God will send forth

one of His mighty angels with the "Little Book", and take possession of the world in preparation for the millennium. (Revelation 10:1-11.)

In order for each of us to understand the Word of God, we must keep ourselves spiritually fit being constantly filled by the Holy Spirit. Otherwise we may have knowledge of the Word of God, but lack wisdom in the use of the Bible. As we study the Word of God, we must also walk in the light of the Word. *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."* 1 John 1:7

Instruction for Reproof and Correction.

In order to understand the difficult and deep teachings of the Bible, you must be led of God the Holy Spirit, who will guide you into all truth. There are portions of God's Word which are intended to reprove and correct the believers, under the supervision of those who are in daily fellowship with the Lord. It is not sufficient for one to just point to the Scriptures and judge his fellow believer, but his life must tally with what the Bible teaches. *"For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."* Matthew 7:2-6. The Word of God does place spiritual leaders over the flock as under shepherds who are to lead the sheep not scatter or beat them. *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."* Hebrews 13:17.

It is very important that when we take the office as a church leader that we are doing the will of God in our private life. Always remember, *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* Matthew 6:24. As believers, God the Holy Spirit dwells within us and we are not our own for we have been bought with a price. *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."* 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

The Bible is very clear and our discipline as leaders must always be based upon Biblical ground. Just because you are the under shepherd of the sheep, you have no right to scatter the sheep, but rather to take them into your loving care. One must also realize that there are divisions of leadership within the Christian assembly, with particular talents and gifts and we must not hinder them from being led of the Lord in their department of responsibility. May we as leaders of Christian assemblies learn to share in the fellowship around the Word of God. May we remember that the sheep of our flock have God the Holy Spirit dwelling within them. He will guide them in truth. (John 14:16-17; 16:13.)

Instruction in Righteousness.

If a Christian leader is living an unrighteous life, he is out of line and ineffective in instructing others in the righteousness of God. By this I do not imply that anyone can live an absolute sinless life of perfection. This is reserved for the time when we receive our glorified bodies at the Rapture. However, we need to constantly remind ourselves to come to the Lord, confessing our own sins before we can help others who have fallen into sin. God will deliver us from our sins, if we will come to Him and acknowledge our sins. (1 John 1:5-10.) *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"* Romans 6:1-2.

Righteousness cometh from Almighty God, and through the Word of God. That is why it is imperative that God the Holy Spirit teaches us this Divine righteousness, as found in the Bible. The human viewpoint between good and evil is imperfect and we must understand the righteousness according to the Word of God, in order to instruct others. As leaders of the church, we are being watched very closely. Learn to share responsibilities in the assembly of believers. Jethro had to admonish Moses to appoint others to help, rather than trying to solve all problems. (Exodus 18:13-27.) In the great work of evangelizing and teaching the Word, we all need those to pray with and help in sending forth God's Word, to "The Regions Beyond." We are members of the body of Christ and need to function as a unit with Christ as the head of the body, being led by God the Holy Spirit.

Understanding the Grace of God.

We can never fully understand the extent of God's grace. After a lifetime of study in God's Word, we can just begin to understand a little of God's unmerited love toward us. *"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements, and His ways past finding out!"* Romans 11:33.

In God's great plan of salvation, He made sure that our perfection would be based upon His provision. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God - Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."* Eph.2:8-9 Why has God so ordained this salvation by grace? *"That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."* Eph. 2:7.

The grace of God has been given to us through the Lord Jesus Christ. It was impossible for us to be delivered from a life of sin by our own merits. In order for the Godhead to provide grace toward us, Christ the Lamb of God had to pay a severe and cruel penalty of death for us.

God has declared his plan of Salvation to us through the Bible. There is no alternate way to approach the true and living God. God sent forth His Eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, not to condemn the sinner, but to redeem those who were dead in trespasses and sin. *"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* Jn .3:17-18. Christ is the only

way, the only truth, and the only life. (John 14:6.) God's grace is manifested and provide only through His Eternal Son. If any one refuses God's grace through His Son, they are in darkness. *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."* Jn. 3:19-21.

As we study God's Word, may it become part of our lives. Yes, there are difficult portions of God's Word, which can only be understood through God the Holy Spirit. But if you thoroughly understand the plan of God and the ultimate eternity to come, you are well on your way to understanding the truth.

Through God's grace we can glorify His name. Our production is not to gain God's grace, but rather a manifestation of God working in us. *"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."* Romans 11:6. God's Word admonishes us to do good works, but not for salvation. *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9. God's grace is available to all through faith in Christ. Our works are evidence of God working in our lives through grace. *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* Hebrews 4:16.

Conclusion

May we thoroughly understand God's Grace. It is God's way of giving mankind a choice. God has given us His plan in writing. We must accept God's Word by faith through the influence of God the Holy Spirit. Christ's finished redemptive work at the Cross is clearly portrayed.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER TWO.

1. As you study the Bible, what do you understand about doctrine?
2. Explain James 1:17-18.
3. How can one understand the plan of God?
4. What are at least 8 requirements as we study the Bible?
5. Give the difference between law and grace as found in the Bible.
6. Where is Satan and his demon's domain?
7. Where do all of our instructions come from, as Christians? Explain.
8. Why is God's grace necessary?
9. What does Daniel 9:24 teach us?
10. Why is this earth, according to God's plan, declared separate from all of the heavenlies?

CHAPTER THREE

Correction and Reproof of Fellow Believers.

Correction and reproof among believers does differ from those who are non-believers. The main issue with those who are ungodly, is the necessity of the new birth in Christ Jesus. But with believers, who are out of fellowship with the Lord, there is a different process. Confession of sins is necessary for the restoration to fellowship with God and fellow believers.

The Purpose of the Bible.

We may ask, "What is the purpose of receiving letters from friends"? The obvious answer is, "That distant friends may communicate with each other." So with the Bible, it is God's communication to Man. *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another."* John 15:12-17. To receive a letter like this from the Creator of the heavens and earth, should thrill our souls with joy unspeakable! Through Christ Jesus, we are adopted into the royal family of God, with the greatest of friendship.

There are many reasons for the written Word of God. The Bible is our one standard textbook. We must read and study it diligently. This is not optional but obligatory. We need this Book in order to understand the origin of the universe and man, the depravity of man and the redemptive work of Christ. The Bible tells us of future events and make clear the choice we have within God's Plan. The Bible is our road map for eternity. The Bible is the Mind of Christ, full of wisdom and a source of strength. The Bible exposes man for what he is and points him to the Savior. Other reasons for The Word of God are;

1. We learn of the personality of God. (Dan 2:20-22; 1 Cor 2:10-11.)
2. It is Communication from our Heavenly Father. (Gen 1:1-27; Rom 1:20.)
3. News from the heavenlies. (Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 John 1:1-4.)
4. It Tells us what the future holds. (Revelation 1:11,18; Ezekiel, Daniel,& Revelation.)
5. We learn what happens after death. (John 11:25-26; Revelation 20:11-15.)
6. We are exposed to Divine viewpoint. (John 14:16-17,26.)
7. We learn of the origin of sin and it's penalty. (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; John 3:18,36; Romans 2:12; 3:23; 6:23.)
8. The origin of languages is explained. (Genesis 1:26-31; 11:5-9.)
9. The judgements of God are declared. (Romans 1:18.)

10. We learn of the incarnation of the Eternal Son of God (John 1:14; Romans 8:3; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 4:1; Ephesians 1:4.)
11. The resurrection truths. (John 11:25-26; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57.)
12. God's love toward mankind is explained. (Genesis 1:26-27; John 3:16-17.)
13. The new birth necessary to become a member of the Royal family of God is proclaimed. (John 3:3-7.)
14. The history of mankind is recorded (Daniel 2:19-22.) with the blessings of God versus the wrath of God. (John 3:17-18,36.)
15. The Trinity of the Godhead. (John 15:26.)
16. The total depravity of mankind and need of a Redeemer, which is provided by God the Father, through Christ. (Romans 3:23-26.)
17. The eternal separation of good from evil. (Rev. 20:4-6; 11-15.)
18. God's written promises to those who believe. (Jeremiah 33:3; Ephesians 3:20-21; Romans 9:4-5; 2 Corinthians 1:20; 7:1; Heb. 6:12; 2 Peter 1:4.)
19. The sovereignty of God rules and reigns forever and ever. (Revelation 19:6.)
20. The grace of God declared in writing. (John 1:14,17; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:15,20; Colossians 1:6; Hebrews 4:16.)

The Bible Is the Word of God.

There is no other book in this whole wide world that has a publication as the Bible. It has been translated into all the outstanding languages as well as many dialects. Thousands of believers have laid down their lives in upholding the Bible as the Word of God. With over 40 writers, the Divine revelation has been maintained and preserved. The evidence of fulfilled prophecy is but another proof that only an omniscient God could declare. The Bible cannot be thoroughly understood by the natural man, but is clearly revealed to those born again by the Holy Spirit. The author of the Bible is the Holy Spirit, who has breathed upon the Scriptures. (2 Timothy 3:16.) The Word of God is alive and powerful and heaven and earth shall pass away but the Bible remains forever. (Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 24:35.) Everything recorded in the Bible shall come to pass and nothing will be changed. (Matthew 5:18.) God's Word is the most complete and concise declaration ever written.

The Bible is God's living Word and has been given to us, by the grace of God, because of the love of God toward all mankind. If you are merely using the Bible as a "collectable", rather than the way of life, you are walking in darkness. *"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Psalms 119:105. God's Word is our spiritual manna from heaven, to sustain us in this present world. It is God's "Light House", keeping us from the pitfalls which we face daily in this present life. It contains our eternal hope and guide lines to everlasting life. It provides the remedy for sin and reveals the glories to come. God's Word is established forever and it is of the greatest importance that we study the Bible, as workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing this Precious Book. (2 Timothy 2:15.)

Discipline Among the Believers.

Whether you are gathered together to pray for the physical sick or the spiritual sick, the issue or issues must be dealt with according to God's Word. It is no small thing for one believer to point his finger of judgement against another. For this reason we must depend upon the Word of God for the solution. *"Bless them which persecute you: bless and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."* Romans 12:14-16. These are some spiritual attitudes to have, as believers, one with another. The under shepherd of the sheep has a very important duty before God for the welfare of the sheep of the fold. He is to lead the sheep rather than drive them. The pastor of the household of faith is to keep the believers well fed in the Word of God. When disputes or misunderstandings occur, especially with the officers of the church, these have to be dealt with according to God's Word. *"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven."* Matthew 18:15-19.

Although, what the Lord was teaching as kingdom principles deals especially with individuals, it certainly can apply within the church. If an officer of the church has been unfaithful in the ministry which has been assigned to him. The Pastor or pastors should go to him and report this seemingly unfaithfulness to him. If he isn't willing to face the charges, which could be true or false, then it is necessary to call in other witnesses, before the final decision is made. Let us remember that the one to be disciplined has a right to defend himself, before a verdict is made. All of the circumstances must be known, before judgement is passed upon him. May I remind you that the Sanhedrin judged Christ before the trial, for the verdict was death prior to the trial. May this not be so among the members of the body of Christ. It is through such hasty decisions and verdicts pronounced upon those in the service of the Lord that causes splits in our churches. Some officers of the local church have secular work to be considered, especially where the services are voluntary and without remuneration. The pastor or pastors must never become a dictator in the service of the Lord, but should always manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* Galatians 5:22-23. May I also add that the final judgement whether acquitted or found guilty should not be done secretly, but should be a consideration of the Elders and Deacons. If the members of the church are aware of the findings, the elders and the deacons must be aware of each step as representatives of the local assembly. A great Scriptural example of the tender dealing of Christ with Peter, after Peter denied the Lord three times. (John 21:5-19.) Yes, the judgements within the church against their fellow believer must always be dealt with according to the Word of God.

Judgement According to the Word of God.

We are warned from God's Word, Matthew 7:1. not to judge lest you will be judged. There is an old saying. "You who live in glass houses, better not throw stones." Individual judgement one against another is a dangerous status. *"Therefore, thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest; for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things."* Romans 2:1. But the Word of God does tell us that there should be discipline among the brethren. This type of judgement is not individual judgement, but rather a judgement from the assembly against individuals. *"For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"* 1 Peter 4:17. This is so important that we judge ourselves rather than be judged by the assembly. Keep short accounts with God, by judging yourself, confessing before God. (1 John 1:9.) But there will be times when the elders of the flock need to judge those who are living in sin and take action against them, if they do not take heed to the council. This never should be done without assembling together of the church Elders or deacons. Before such a one who is to be disciplined is called for questioning, those who are to judge such a one, should use 1 John 1:9 in their own lives, and pray for that particular one. If your prayers are to be heard, may I warn you of Psalm 66:18. If personal sin lies at your life door, you can expect that your prayers are unheard, and you are under discipline by Almighty God. Each of us as believers need to be cautious as we treat our fellow members of the body of Christ.

Judgement According to the Will of God.

Christian judgement should always be according to the will of God, by the authority of the Word of God. The early church had to constantly guard against false doctrine entering into the assembly and had to base their judgements according to the will of God, revealed in the Word of God. We search the Scripture to understand God's will for our lives, desiring to bear much fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-26.) If we are conformed to this world's system we can only produce the fruit of the flesh. (Galatians 5:17-21.) That is why it is necessary to know the will of God for your life. *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."* Galatians 5:16. When we walk according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the will of God will be performed in our lives, as believers. We must be in continual fellowship with God the Holy Spirit, in order to achieve God's will in our lives.

Praying for the Healing of the Physical Sick.

The physical well being of each other in our prayer meetings does have a place in our prayer time. It should not have the predominant place in our prayer life. Let us see what the Word has to say about the physical sick. *"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing Psalms. Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."*

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. " James 5:13-16. This portion of Scripture is very definite and has several issues to be considered.

1. The one who is afflicted must be in prayer.
2. Rejoicing and acknowledging the Word of God with singing.
3. The one who is sick, let him call the elders of the church for prayer.
4. The anointing with oil in the name of the Lord. The importance is not in the oil, but rather in the name of the Lord. There is no merit in the oil by itself, but in the Lord. We have many examples in the Scriptures where prayers are made for the sick, without the use of oil. Oil in the Old Testament was used for anointing God's chosen leaders.
5. The prayer of faith. This is where the importance rests, and not upon the oil. Faith is substance and evidence, and without it all is in vain. From this point it is in the hands of the Lord, according to His will.
6. If he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven, on the bases of the finished work of Christ upon the Cross, and the use of 1 John 1:9.
7. Confess your faults one to another is another essential step in praying for the healing of the sick. This should be done by all the believers gathered together in prayer for the sick.
8. Pray one for another that ye may be healed. This is where we all need to be walking in the light of God's Word. (1 John 1:5-10.)
9. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Here is the climax to this physical healing.

There are ample illustrations from the Bible that all the sick and afflicted are not always healed. Paul the Apostle had a thorn in the flesh which remained. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10.) Timothy suffered from a weak stomach. (1 Timothy 5:23.)

The Spiritual Sick.

As I worked among the Masai people for many years, it was difficult for believers to live in a communal life. Cultural background permitted most any type of trespasses, as long as you did not get caught. The people lived a very loose moral life, which was contrary to Biblical principles. God the Holy Spirit was the only one who could deliver them from the old carnal life. We had one Masai warrior whom my late wife taught to read and write, after he became a believer. The New Testament was his first primer, and from it he learned to read with deep understanding. Eventually, this Masai became an elder within the church, and became a marvelous witness to the saving grace of God. He was tested in many ways, but God brought him through, to the glory and praise of the Lord. As we would sit around the table, discussing various problems that arose within the church, we could always depend upon him to turn to the Scriptures for a solution to the problem. It takes one who is spiritual healthy to help one who is spiritual sick. The Word of God must be used as a bases for our relationships with our fellow believers.

The Judgements of the Elders,

The office of an elder within the church is a high calling and requires that person to keep on being filled by God the Holy Spirit. *"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the Word and doctrine."* 1 Timothy 5:17. The elders are prone to get a continual accusation by those who are jealous or envious, and God's Word says, *"Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."* 1 Timothy 5:19-20. With these guide lines, may we search the Scriptures for the answer to rightful judgements among the brethren. God despises discord among the brethren. (Proverbs 6:16-19.) Satan continually stirs up jealousy, greed and pride, with a continual deceit to split churches and bring discord among the brethren. Paul who was well taught in the Scriptures of his day was an outstanding example of establishing peace among the brethren. He manifested the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23.) *"This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now I write to them which heretofore have sinned, and to all other, that, if I come again, I will not spare: Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, which to you-ward is not weak, but is mighty in you. For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you. Examine 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 reprobates? But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates."* 2 Corinthians 13:1-6. Here is a perfect example for all church leaders to follow. We all need to constantly Examine ourselves, and allow the Holy Spirit to convict us, so that we might be manifesting the power of God through our lives. May we consider some of the important attributes that our church leaders should have, according to the Word of God. God's standards are very high and no one can, attain to that perfection of the Godhead. However, may we glance at what the Bible teaches concerning the ideals of God. These cannot be accomplished in our lives, except by the power of God the Holy Spirit. When we behold what the Bible says, it brings great humiliation upon each of us, as we wish to do God's perfect will in our lives. *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."* Zechariah 4:6b.

The judgements made by the apostles were in the establishing of the Word of God. Pastors are not apostles, but rather ministering saints as the under shepherds of members of the body of Christ. Judgements within the church body should never be decided only by the pastor, but in cooperation with the elders and deacons. In cases of disciplinarian measures, there should always be two or three witnesses, according to the Word of God. *"Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses."* 1 Timothy 5:19. When a church member or officer is brought to trial, no final decision should be made until all of the evidence is brought forward. *"Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! Saith the Lord. Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the Lord. And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of*

all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord." Jer. 23:1-4.

I have listed some important attributes that a minister of the Gospel should have, whether relating to the pastor or the elders and deacons. We should be very careful how we treat our own body. It is therefore more important how we handle the spiritual body. We must not have partiality or favoritism with the spiritual members of the body of Christ. Let us consider some attributes that Church leaders should have in their services to the local assembly.

Biblical Attributes for Church Leaders.

1. Born again by God the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3-7.)
2. There lives presented to God as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1.)
3. Baptized by God the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13.)
4. Keep on being filled by God the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18.)
5. Not grieving God the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:30.)
6. Not conformed to this world system. (Romans 12:2.)
7. Maintaining a humble Christian life. (Romans 12:3.)
8. Manifesting the fruit of God the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23.)
9. Manifesting patience before all men, being sincere. (Rom. 12:9-12.)
10. Without blame and a husband of one wife. (1 Timothy 3:1-2.)
11. Not a drinker of alcohol or strong drinks. (1 Timothy 3:3.)
12. Not desirous of filthy bribes or gifts of money. (1 Timothy 3:3.)
13. One who rules his own family well and becometh a good father. (1 Timothy 3:4-5.)
14. Having a good testimony among those who are not Christians. (1 Timothy 3:6-7.)
15. Not a pretender, but honest, dealing with all on an equal basis. (Romans 12:9; 1 Tim. 3:8.)
16. Not a novice, but proved as worthy of the position. (1 Tim. 3:9-10.)
17. Well taught in the Scriptures. (2 Timothy 2:15.)
18. The minister of a local assembly, as the under shepherd of the sheep must lead the sheep, rather than drive them. (Matthew 9:36.) Jesus being the great, chief Shepherd, the flock is in need of under shepherds. (Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 1:4.)
19. The Pastor must not scatter the sheep of God's fold, (Jer. 23:1-4.)
20. The leaders of the church should always set an example in the manifestation of the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23.)
21. The Pastor or other church leaders should never form or join one group against the other in the assembly. (Habakkuk 1:3-4.)
22. The pastor and leaders of the church should never pass judgement on each other alone, but always have two or three witnesses present to verify the decision that must be made. (Matthew 18:15-19.)
23. The Pastor and leaders of the local assembly should never cause divisions or splits among the congregation. (Romans 13:13-14.)
24. The Pastor and church leaders should not bring discord among the brethren. (Proverbs 6:19.)

25. There are six other things that the Lord hates. (Proverbs 6:16-19.)
Seven is an abomination unto him. A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, A divisor of scheming and wicked imaginations. Quick to spread mischief, A false witness that speaks lies, Discord among the brethren.
26. The leaders of the church should not have itchy ears to spread gossip, but deal with the problems immediately with evidence. (1 Timothy 4 :3.)
27. The leaders of the church should not be dictators over the congregation, but be longsuffering to all, manifesting the Divine love of God through God the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23.)

Judgement According to the Grace of God.

As we assemble together, we do have different personalities and as God has manifested His grace toward us, so we should use grace principles toward each other. *"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."* Romans 12:3. Another very good attitude to have especially among believers. *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another."* Romans 12:10. Let us strive by the power of the Holy Spirit to manifest grace unto each other as fellow believers. God used the apostle Paul as an instrument in establishing the Word of God as direct from Almighty God. As the elders of the church gather together to make decisions, may the principles of Grace be predominant.

There is a very sobering thought from God's Word, concerning those that sit in seats of authority within the church. *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."* 1 Corinthians 10:12. This is a severe warning to all Christian leaders, not to think of themselves more highly than they ought to think. (Romans 12:3.) The natural man places himself first. The spiritual man should desire to exalt the Lord Jesus. While I worked with tribal people of Africa, I became familiar with customs of different tribes. The Kipsigis of Kenya, would greet each other by asking the question, "Do you love yourself?" (Chamege?) The Masai always liked to make a deal to their advantage and when they were about to give you a gift, they would ask, "Is he able"? (Kedimu?) What they wanted to know was, If I give a gift to that person, will he be able to return gifts more than I am giving to him? Well, regardless of the race of people, we all, "naturally" think in terms of our personal advantage. This should not be so among Christians. *"But I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"* Corinthians 9:6-8.) These Christian principles can only be accomplished in the power of God the Holy Spirit. There is no reason whatsoever for Christians to have a proud heart, for we are what we are by the grace of God.

Judging One Another.

God has given to us the Printed Word of God to be our guideline for the duration of our lives upon planet earth. It brings us into the realm of the Divine viewpoint. The commandments were given as a school master to us, showing us the holiness of our Creator. The Lord desires that when judgement in our lives is necessary that we judge one another in righteousness. *"Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgement."* John 7:24. That is why we need to grow in the knowledge of God's Word, so that we understand righteous judgements according to God's Word. In judging one another as Christians, may we judge righteously. There are times that we must refrain from severe judgements that may occur in our Christian life. *"Judge not, that ye be not judged."* Matthew 7:1. Individual judgement can be dangerous and that is why we need to have several witnesses when judgement is necessary.

It is a good principle when good or bad news comes your way (right or wrong) that we pause for a moment and bow in prayer for that particular brother in the Lord. We can be a carrier of false statements and therefore we must bring the situation before the throne of Grace. There is nothing hidden from God, therefore He will direct your decision. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."* Proverbs 3:5-6. This is an individual responsibility that each Christian should have, knowing the will of God as one continues in the walk of faith. God expects our works to match our words.

Beware of False Prophets.

God's Word is very clear as to these false prophets that will come, with great words, but they are wolves in sheep's clothing. The Lord himself has warned us of those who will try to bring in false doctrines. *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* Matthew 7:15. May I also remind you of other false prophets who will come into your assemblies, and will have glorious results under the power of Satan, and will someday stand before the Lord to be judged. *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out demons? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Matthew 7:21-23. This is a very strong statement coming direct from the Eternal Son of God, who is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending. It is amazing how some can speak Biblical language, but their heart's belief may be far away. One may deceive mankind with flowery words, but God knows every thought and intent of man. May I remind you, "There is nothing hidden from God"! We who are believers have God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, as our guide and discernor of conflicting aspects in the spiritual realm.

Test Every Spirit.

You may remember the "Simon the sorcerer" who desired this special power that the disciples had, so that he could charge filthy lucre from those who came to him. *"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which before time in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one. To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that a long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: (For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. And when Simon saw this that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money. Saying, Give me also this power, that on whosoever I lay hands, he might receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou has neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come to me, And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans."* Acts 8:9-25.

This gives us a warning as to those who will come to our assemblies in sheep's clothing but are ravenous wolves. I believe that in Simon's case he must have repented and became a believer, leaving his old practice of sorcery. There are many false prophets who claim great powers and deceive many people who are desperate for healing and other ailments. How do we detect such false teachers who come into our assemblies with their deceptions? The Word of God is clear on this point, so let us turn to the Scriptures for our answer. First of All, we who are Christians do have God the Holy Spirit within us, and as we search out the Word, we have the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us into all truth. (John 16:13; Romans 8:14,26.) Since God the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we are capable of discerning right and wrong. *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world."* 1 John 4:1-4. We have God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and no harm can come upon us other than what

God permits. But these trials of our faith are precious in the sight of God, and bring glory honor and praise to our Lord. (1 Peter 1:7.)

Conclusion

As we conclude this chapter on correction and reproof, may we remind ourselves that all this must be done according to the Word of God. There is no private interpretation of God's Word. The Bible must be rightly divided according to God's plan for all ages. As Believers and born of God the Holy Spirit, we are members of the body of Christ, first and foremost before we consider the membership of a local church. The purpose of the written Word is to consistently unify the revelation from God. Through the printed page, God's revelation cannot be twisted or changed to accommodate national or tribal customs. All judgements within the body of Christ, must be according to the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit. The Word of God should never be taken out of context at any time. It is true, that secondary applications can be derived from the established facts, but in keeping with the purpose of the Bible. Let us examine some of the outstanding judgements of God found in the Bible.

The Judgements of God.

1. The curse of the serpent. (Genesis 3:14.)
2. Adam and Eve sent forth from the garden of Eden. (Gen. 3:23-24.)
3. The judgement and curse by a world wide flood. (Genesis 7:1-8:22.)
4. The judgement against Ham. (Genesis 10:22-25.)
5. The judgement of languages. (Genesis 11:5-9.)
6. The judgement against Esau. (Romans 9:12.)
7. Judgement against Egypt. (Exodus 11-1-14:31.)
8. Judgements against Israel in the wilderness because of her unbelief. (Exodus 32:1-28; Numbers 13:26-14:39; 21:5-20.)
9. Judgement against the nations. (Judges; Exodus 33:2; 34:24; Num. 24:8; Deut. 4:38; 11:28; 19:1; The Book of Daniel.)
10. Judgement of total sin at the Cross. (Matthew 27:27-56; Mark 15:16-32; Luke 23:26-43; John 19:16-24.)
11. Judgement through the sin unto death. (Romans 6:16.)
12. The judgement seat of Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11-17; 2 Cor. 5:10.)
13. The heavenly battle against Satan and his demons by Michael and God's holy angels. (Revelation 9:1; 12:7-12.)
14. The Great Tribulation. (Revelation 6-18.)
15. The judgement of Israel because of her rejection of the Messiah, which shall take place during the Great Tribulation. (Rev. 12:13-10.)
16. The judgement through the Battle of Armageddon. (Rev. 19:11-21.)
17. The tribulation nations judged. (Revelation 19:17-21.)
18. The judgement against the two beasts. (Revelation 19:20.)

19. The judgement against Satan, being cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:1-3.)
20. The judgement against Satan and his demons and ungodly nations. This will be the final battle and eternal judgement against the evil forces. (Revelation 20:7-10.)
21. The Judgement of the Great White Throne. (Revelation 20:11-15.)
22. The judgement against this old world and heaven. (2 Peter 3:7-10.)

God's Word Is Established Forever.

There is no one who escapes the judgements of God. When God's children sin, they are judged by God. God wants His children to come to Him, confessing their sins. *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* 1 John 1:8. That is why we must confess directly to God. (1 John 1:9.) God is long suffering toward us, manifesting His marvelous grace on behalf of us! The world is being judged constantly and will receive the final judgements in the latter days. Always have short accounts with God. Christians need to make full use of God's Word. These things are written in the Word of God for our admonition and correction. *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."* 1 John 1:7. My personal word is of no effect, unless it is based upon the Word of God. *"Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes."* Psalm 119:11-12.

Concerning the issue of sin, do not just call your sin a mistake, or blame it on someone else. Your sins can be of a variety of causes. It may be a lack of faith toward God that needs corrections. *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* Hebrews 11:6. It is of great importance that we come before the throne of grace, confessing our short comings. *"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another."* 1 Corinthians 11:28-33. The Word of God gives us instructions as to how to live well pleasing in the sight of God.

Insight for Living.

It is from the Word of God that we understand some important insights for living the Christian life. Some important factors from the Word of God.

1. We better understand the Triune God.
2. We learn to differentiate between the human viewpoint and the Divine viewpoint.
3. As we study the whole Bible, we get a glimpse of the eternal plan of God.
4. The Bible instructs us in eternal values.

5. We grow by the grace of God with understanding of the Bible.
6. We can face difficult circumstances by applying the truth of the Bible to our daily living.
7. Our growth in faith is strengthened by the evidence of faith, manifested in the Word of God.
8. We establish confidence in God, knowing from the Bible that He holds the future.
9. We understand from the Bible that there is life after death.
10. The Bible is God's way of communicating with mankind.
11. The Bible is our defense against the wiles of the devil.
12. Salvation from the penalty of sin is proclaimed in the Bible.
13. The final judgements against all evil forces are manifested in the Bible.
14. The "Utopia" of God is made known in the Bible.

May God's Word cause us to take inventory of our own Christian life. It is always easy to criticize others. This should not be our method of operating. Our lives should be constantly controlled by the Word of God. It is by the grace of God that we are what we are! We have been purchased out from the slave market of sin, by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. May I remind you of the attitude of that great prophet Isaiah. *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of Him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips: and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged."* Isaiah 6:1-7. Isaiah became cleansed. (Isaiah 6:8.) May we have that continual cleansing for teaching the Word of God!

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER THREE.

1. Give some reasons why the Bible is the only Word of God.
2. How should Christians manifest discipline among themselves? (Romans 12:14-16.)
3. How should a Pastor handle discipline within the church assembly? (Matthew 18:15-19.)
4. How should we apply the fruit of the Spirit in our discipline actions? (Galatians 5:22-23.)
5. How does God's will enter into judgements within the body of Christ?
6. How best can we pray for those who are physically sick or handicapped? (James 5:13-16.)
7. Explain 1 Timothy 3:2-4; in the light of those who judge.
8. How do Christian leaders deal with those who are spiritually sick?
9. What are some of the work of Elders and Deacons within the local church? (1 Tim. 5:17-20.)
10. Give Biblical attributes which should apply to believers well grounded in the Word of God.
11. Why is faith so important in the national Christian leaders' lives? (Romans 12:3,10.)
12. Give some ways of detecting false prophets who come into churches. (Matthew 7:21-23.)

CHAPTER FOUR

Instructions in the Righteousness of God.

The Personality of the Triune God cannot be placed on an imaginary basis, allowing everyone to have their private opinion as to what God is like. God himself had to introduce himself to us, through creation, and eventually explained through the entire written Word. The evidence that there is a Supreme God is manifested through His creation. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork."* Psalm 19:1. However, we must go to the written Word to have that personal relationship with God. The Bible reveals to us the manner in which God created the heavens and earth. (Genesis 1:1-31.) The Bible also explains how we were created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-31;) This could only have been known by God himself. God put it in writing so that there would not be a confusion as to our origin. God even told us through the Bible that the world was round. (Isaiah 40:22.)

Since mankind in the natural form has become totally depraved, he has lost his direct contact with God, and falls short of the righteousness of God. It is the revelation in the Bible that instructs us and reveals to us the demands of God. The Bible reveals the character of God and His eternal love for His creatures. God had one purpose for all who would believe and that is salvation through His Eternal Son, whom He sent in the fullness of time. (Galatians 4:4.) We earthly people of all races and color must believe that God would send the supreme sacrifice. Those believers of the Old Testament, through the animal sacrifices had their sins covered by those animal sacrifices, until God sent forth His Son to be the perfect sacrifice. They looked forward to the Cross by faith, and we, from Pentecost onward, look back to the finished work, by faith. The Bible gives us the following important instructions as to the righteousness of God.

1. God's instructions in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16.)
2. The Eternal Triune God of all righteousness. (2 Peter 1:1.)
3. The Creation of God, glorifying the righteousness of God. (Ephesians 4:24; Romans 10:3.)
4. The righteous personality of God. (Psalm 7:17.)
5. The provision of salvation based upon the righteousness of God. (Romans 3:22-26.)
6. The imputed righteousness of God to those who would believe. (James 2:23; Romans 4:22.)
7. The righteousness of God manifested by the Grace of God. (2 Corinthians 3:9;
8. The righteousness of God is necessary as the righteousness of the saints. (1 Cor. 1:30.)
9. The final judgements against all unrighteousness is clearly taught in the Word of God. (1 John 3:7-10. John 16:8.)

God's righteousness is revealed in so many ways in the Bible, which would never have been known without the Bible. Since the Word of God has been "God Breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16.); the Bible remains alive forever and ever. (Hebrews 4:12.) The Bible is God's Book of instructions and declarations for eternity, and it is important that we study to show ourselves students that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15.) As believers we need to arm ourselves with the Word of God, not only for this present life, but also

the future. As we will be raptured to our heavenly home, we certainly want to be aware of what the Bible teaches. We should have great expectations as to the events that will take place both in heaven and upon this earth during those seven years in the Mansions of God the Father. Then we need to be acquainted with the Bible, when we enter into the Millennium. The Lord will send us forth to the ends of the world, teaching the Gospel of the Kingdom. The more we learn of the Word of God in this present life, the better we can be used of God during the kingdom age. The more that one studies the Bible, the more we realize that we know so little of God's precious Word.

God's Word is our guide post through this present life. God has so ordained that the Bible should be available to every tribe and kindred throughout the whole world. We want to pause for a moment and consider why the Bible is so important to all mankind for total blessings. It is the one Book that Satan and his demons hate. The ungodly may have copies of the Bible in their homes, more or less for a keep sake or charm. Let us see the value that the Bible should have to all of mankind in this world of ours.

The Importance of the Bible to Mankind

Since God is omniscient, knowing all things, He has prepared a guide line for mankind. To complete what God wanted us to know, it took more than 4,000 years and over 40 writers, led by God the Holy Spirit. This should mean something to each one of us. May we also remember that God is not a God of confusion. *"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."* 1 Corinthians 14:33. As Believers we already have God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, who establishes a peace of mind, to those who are in fellowship with the Lord. We as the saints of God are witnesses for God in this world of confusion. Nations that adopt the principles set forth in the Bible, are richly blessed by God. An outstanding proof of this is found in the nation Israel. When they ruled according to the laws and statutes laid down by God, they were richly blessed. Now that they have rejected the Christ of salvation, they have been scattered and suffering severely in their waywardness. *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and heal their land."* 2 Chronicles 7:14. God is constantly waiting for the leaders of nations to turn to Him for guidance. That is why we have the written Bible to lead us into all truth. The Bible has the ways and means for "Justice for All"! Since the Bible has been given by God the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to be understood apart from the Holy Spirit. A new birth is necessary to understand the Divine viewpoint set forth in the Bible. There is no other book in the whole world that can compare to the Bible. It is the one Book that the devil and his demons fear. In my family, we had an occasion of being harassed by demons in the middle of the night. They attacked my wife and she woke me and we both got out of bed and fell upon our knees praying. When we quoted the Scriptures the demons left. The Bible is powerful, to God's praise and glory.

The True Value of the Bible.

1. The Bible reveals the true character of God. (Daniel 2:20-23.)
2. The Bible establishes our creation, after the image of God. (Genesis 1:27.)
3. The Bible preserved the history of mankind. (Genesis to Revelation)
4. The Bible reveals the unity within the Triune God. (John 15:26.)
5. The Bible reveals the plan of God. (Hebrews 1:1-3; Daniel, Ezekiel, and Revelation.)
6. The Bible manifests the everlasting love that God has for those who trust Him. (Jn. 3:16-17; Romans 5:8; 1 John 3:1-3.)
7. The Bible reveals the New Creation promised by God. (Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:1-2.)
8. The Bible declares a "Utopia" to come. (Daniel 9:24.)
9. The Bible reveals the battles to be fought before all things become new. (Revelation 9:1-21; 12:7-12; 19:11-21; 20:7-10.)
10. The Bible was inspired and God breathed by the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:16.)
11. The Bible is continually alive and powerful. (Hebrews 4:12.)
12. The Bible reveals the coming judgements of the saints and the ungodly. (1 Cor. 3:12-17; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10.)
13. The Bible reveals the separation of saints from the ungodly through death. (Mat. 25:31-46; Revelation 20:4-6.)
14. The Bible differentiates between religions and relationship through Christianity that we might have with God. (1 Corinthians 12:27; Romans 4:14; 8:17; Titus 3:7; 1 Peter 3:7.)
15. The Bible manifests the grace of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:24; 5:15; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 2:7.)
16. The Bible declares the eternal laws of God. (The Book of Leviticus)
17. The Bible records the working of the Holy Spirit, giving that Divine birth to those who believe. (John 3:6-7.)
18. The Bible tells of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament saints of God. (John 14:16-17.)
19. The Bible tells of the restraining power of the Holy Spirit during this age of Grace. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7.)

Our Guidance in Teaching the Word of God.

As we approach the important place that the Bible should have in every nation of the world, we realize that very few Governments even consider the value of the Bible in political affairs. God, through the Holy Spirit has laid down principles by which the world could be ruled. God will send forth His Eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to rule and reign for a thousand years, with Biblical principles. The natural man cannot comprehend these spiritual viewpoints and that is why, one needs the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit to reveal the Divine viewpoint, bringing peace to ones soul.

As one teaches the Word of God, no matter how much one may know of the Bible, we must be completely yielded to the Holy Spirit. We always need "Divine Guidance" regardless of our

knowledge of the Word of God. Before one teaches others in the Word of God, it is essential that one allows God the Holy Spirit to search our hearts and convict us of our shortcomings before we teach others. As we prepare for teaching the Word, let us be so yielded to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order that the still small voice of the Spirit will be heard through our study of the Word of God. We need a daily portion of God's Word in our lives for daily living to the glory and honor of the Lord. It is not what I think as a person, but rather what God has written that counts. My witnessing to others must be based upon the written Word of God. *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."* John 20:31. God's written Word is essential and conclusive in all of our teachings. Without the Word of God, our teachings are without effect. We who are Christians are ambassadors of Christ, presenting the Word of God to those without hope. After salvation is established, then the Bible also becomes the stability to the believers in building them up in the most holy faith. God the Holy Spirit will be their ever present help in understanding the deep things of God's Word.

The Necessity of the Divine Viewpoint.

As fellow believers we need to constantly remind ourselves that we are in a continual battle against the flesh and our old carnal mind. The only way in which we can obtain victory over carnality is to remain steadfastly in the teachings of the Word of God. In the Scriptures you will learn to discern the Divine viewpoint, having the mind of Christ uppermost in your every thought, word and deed. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being in the fashion as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Philippians 2:5-8.

God has set forth, in the Bible, spiritual food for us to enjoy, as well as grow. A happy Christian is a growing Christian, rejoicing in the promises of God. When difficult situations occur among believers, or worldly cares may overwhelm one, then and if we know the Word of God, we can face these difficulties from the Divine viewpoint. We will fall if we depend upon the natural viewpoint. God has given us His Word of assurance, in writing, so that those who believe might know that it is well with their souls, regardless of circumstances.

The Lord Jesus Christ has made possible this new relationship that we can obtain with the Triune God. Always remember that it was Christ who removed the barrier of sin, so that we could have access into the very presence of God. We were dead in trespasses and sins, and now we are made alive through Christ our Redeemer. This made possible the new birth by God the Holy Spirit, and discernment of things in the spiritual realm, through the teaching from the Bible. This all is inter-related and secures our communication with God the Father. The natural man, being dead spiritually, cannot commune with God, and certainly cannot know the Divine viewpoint. The Bible has the answer to every problem, but so often, we tend to by-pass the Word and depend upon human reasoning. Our churches are filled with members of the body of Christ who are ignorant of many marvelous truths from the Word. Then, when trouble comes, they

falter and fall. So few believers understand the plan of God both for their lives and the things to come. Sometimes these members of the body of Christ have been only living on the milk of God's Word. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3.); and could not digest the deep things of God's Word. Others may be under the teaching of liberals who have entered the ministry enjoying a distinguished profession. Still others may be living a life of sin and are out of fellowship with Almighty God. May we keep in the right relationship with our heavenly Father.

The Necessity of the Right Relationship with God.

It is very important that we maintain the right relationship with God as members of the "Royal Family of God". Yes, we belong to God's family, being made new creatures in Christ Jesus, through a new birth by God the Holy Spirit. This was all made possible by the grace of God, but we are reminded, *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer in it?"* Romans 6:1-2. There is nothing hidden from God and we need to constantly remind ourselves of this high calling which we have in Christ Jesus. *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."* 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

That communication that we have as born again believers, can be disrupted through sin, which results in the lack of fellowship with the Godhead. May I again remind you as to what the Bible says. *"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."* Psalm 66:18. It is therefore necessary that we bring these short-comings to the Lord, so that our relationship with God is restored and our prayers are heard. I remind you of what the Lord himself has said. *"No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."* Matthew 6:24. May each of us examine our priorities and test ourselves as to whether we are producing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23); or the fruit of the flesh (Galatians 5:17-21). Always remember, we deserve nothing. It is by the grace of God we are what we are!

We must always remember that when we accept Christ as our personal Savior we immediately become members of the body of Christ. God is in the process of gathering together members of the body of Christ from Pentecost until the rapture. When the rapture takes place, the body of Christ will be completed. This body will be separate from all other saints and will be the "Bride". As we wait for that great "Air Lift", we will enter into the bridal chambers of God the Father, where Christ is preparing a place for His bride. It is very necessary that we keep in the right relationship with Christ as the head of the body, which is the present true church of today. The final preparation for the marriage will be at the judgement seat of Christ, when the members of the body of Christ receive rewards according to their faithfulness.

Maintaining the Right Relationship with God.

1. Being born again places us in the Royal family of God. We should present ourselves acceptable unto God through the power of The Holy Spirit. (Romans 12:1-8.)

2. We should be controlled by God the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14-17.)
3. Delighting in the laws of God. (Romans 7:22.)
4. Continually being filled by the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18.)
5. Daily devotion with God, through the Word of God. (2 Timothy 2:15.)
6. Assembling together as members of the family of God. (Hebrews 10:25.)
7. Continual confessing of our sins to the Lord for cleansing. (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 12:3-13.)
8. Start and end each day with prayer and remain in an attitude of prayer. (Luke 19:46; Acts 6:4; Rom. 12:12; 1 Cor. 7:5; Philippians 4:6; Colossians 4:2; 1 Tim. 4:5; James 5:16.)
9. Bearing a testimony and witness for the Lord, in our daily life. (John 1:6-7; 15:27; Acts 1:22; Matthew 28:18-20.)
10. Let your requests be made known unto God. (Philippians 4:5-7.)
11. Giving liberally for the furthering of the Gospel. (Philippians 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.)

The Royal Family of God.

The right relationship with God begins with being born into the family of God. A new birth is necessary by God the Holy Spirit. It is not sufficient for one to change his way of living. This will ultimately fail, because the flesh is weak! All who desire to be of the Royal family of God must be adopted into this family by being born of God the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3-7.) We must have the Divine spark given to us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13.) This new relationship is not dependent upon the gifts from the Holy Spirit, but is the gift of the Holy Spirit. *"Now there are diversity of gifts, but the same Spirit."* 1 Corinthians 12:4. The issue as to being in the Royal family of God is the new birth by the Holy Spirit, rather than from the Holy Spirit. Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for specific purposes in the work of God. We all have natural gifts, which should always be used for God's glory. These gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for specific work for the Lord. They are given as the Holy Spirit sees fit. *"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He wills."* 1 Cor. 12:4-11.

The Necessity of the Grace of God.

We always revert back to the grace of God, for without God's grace, all would be in vain. You cannot earn salvation, nor can you purchase a heavenly home, it must be a gift from God apart from works. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, who verily was*

foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by Him do believe in God, who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory, that your faith and hope might be in God." 1 Peter 1:18-21. God has made every provision for this new life in Christ Jesus. He is our all in all and the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2.)

Salvation and relation are of the Lord, by the grace of God! There is no way that we could approach the Holy God without the barrier of sin being removed. "Oh the love of God that drew salvation's plan, Oh the Grace of God that brought it down to, man"! Unless God does it all nothing is acceptable before the Living God who is over all!

Organized religion by man, always stress works and sacrifices. But to gain relationship with God, one must accept God's grace through faith. God isn't interested in your attempt to show piety, and torture, to gain the attention of God. God is interested in your submission to Him in humility and faith. Mankind apart from God is totally depraved, and unable to impress God in any way. We must accept His offer of salvation by grace, and not by works. God wishes to share His eternal glory with "whosoever will", by grace, and "To God be the glory, great things He hath done!" There is nothing that we have in ourselves that is worthy before our Creator. All that we have or ever will have comes from God by the grace of God. That does not mean that we sit back and do nothing, as lazy benefactors of God's grace. There is work to be done, not for salvation but in appreciation of salvation.

Conclusion

God owes us nothing but condemnation. But by the grace of God He has provided us with glorification! God desires that we live a life of faith, totally submitted unto Him, the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2.) God has granted to those who believe, total forgiveness and total victory. God has removed the sting of death by sending His Eternal son to pay the debt of our sin. *"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* 1 Corinthians 15:56-58. God's righteousness is available to all, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. God cannot tolerate anything less than perfect righteousness. That is why it is available to all who will come to Him, through the redemption power, manifested by His Eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The laws of God could not be kept in these mortal bodies. God had to intervene and provide His righteousness. *"But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference; For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His grace through redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Who God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"* Romans 3:21-25. The Word of God is absolutely clear as to God's ultimate aim and purpose in the sharing of His righteousness with His creatures. We who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior have been clothed upon in Almighty God's righteousness. We wait with a sure hope for the righteousness of God by faith,

when we receive those glorified bodies. (Galatians 5:5.) As the future bride of Christ we shall be arrayed in God's righteousness. *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints."* Revelation 19:7-8. Praise God, when that trumpet sounds and the dead in Christ rise first, then we that are alive shall be changed into our glorified bodies and be "air lifted" to meet the Lord in the clouds. That will be a sight to behold! *"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so come Lord Jesus."* Revelation 22:20.

God the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, as we study the Bible. If we grieve the Holy Spirit or quench His power in our lives, as Christians, we cannot expect to be led by the Holy Spirit. Keeping in good fellowship with God is a continual process, making sure that, through confession, the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ keeps on cleansing us from all sins. (1 John 1:9.) The righteousness of God must constantly be expressed in our lives, so that we remain efficient ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot understand the Divine viewpoint without living in the Divine fellowship. *"This is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, the God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanse us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us."* 1 John 1:5-10. God's Word tells it as it is and it is important that we believe it as it is!

Because of our sin nature and being prone to sin, we are constantly accused by the devil before God. Satan is trying his best to excuse himself and those countless angels of their sins, to avoid that final judgement day. But this is all in vain, for God has made special arrangements for all evil forces to be punished forever. For us who believe, God has provided our Advocate to plead our case. *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* 1 John 2:1-2. It is all by the grace of God, that we have Divine fellowship throughout this life and the life to come.

When we read the Bible, we must remember that it is God speaking to us. We cannot maintain the right relationship with God without the Word. There is no substitute for God's Word in maintaining the right relationship with God. Man's religions and philosophies are all in vain when not based upon Bible teachings. The Bible is not a book to place hands upon and expect special rights, or make certain vows, without understanding the teaching of the Bible. God's Word, the Bible is not some ancient writings, as history or primitive thoughts, but is forever alive and powerful! The Bible in it's entirety is the Word of God, and it will stand the test of eternity. *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."* Matthew 24:35.

The Bible has been given to us over thousands of years that we might know the true and living God who loves us with an everlasting love. God's promises are based upon His eternal perfect character, and established within the written Word. *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,*

from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber." Psalm 121:1-3.

As Christian leaders, we have a great responsibility before God. May our good works stand the test of fire before the Judgement seat of Christ. Do the work of a minister or evangelist as unto the Lord, rather than any other reason. God wants us to depend upon Him with joy and with trials. Listen to what the Bible says. *"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."* Jeremiah 33:3. We are living in the last days as another 2,000 year period comes to a close. We do not know the exact time of the Rapture of the saints, but we do see some of the signs which are leading up to the coming of the Lord for His own. May He find each of us faithfully busy in the work which He has assigned to us. *"Only one life, will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last"*. May each of us lift up our eyes to the fields that are white unto harvest and the laborers are so few. Have you answered the call of the Lord? *"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; Send me."* Isaiah 6:8.

God's Righteousness must Reign.

1. To be led in the righteousness of God. (Psalm 5:8; 23:3.)
2. We praise God according to His righteousness. (Psalm 7:17.)
3. The heavens declare God's righteousness. (Psalm 50:6.)
4. God shall judge the world in righteousness. (Psalm 98:9.)
5. God's righteousness is everlasting. (Psalm 119:142.)
6. Righteousness exalteth a nation. (Proverbs 14:34.)
7. The Lord becomes our righteousness. (Jeremiah 23:6.)
8. The righteousness of God is claimed by faith. (Romans 3:21-26.)
9. The righteousness of God is through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21.)
10. A crown of righteousness is for God's faithful. (2 Timothy 4:8.)
11. The imputation of righteousness. (James 2:23; Philippians 3:9.)
12. God's righteousness in the new earth. (2 Peter 3:13.)
13. Christ shall reign in perfect justice and righteousness. (Zech. 14:9; Isa. 11:1-7; Ps. 72:12-14.)

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER FOUR

1. How does the Bible help us to know about God?
2. How can one obtain God's righteousness?
3. How important is the Bible in your life?
4. Explain 1 Corinthians 14:33; and 2 Chronicles 7:14.
5. In teaching the Bible, what guidance do you have?
6. In studying the Bible, please tell how important it is to be in the right relationship with God.
7. How do we become members of the Royal Family of God?
8. Why must we always depend upon "The Grace of God"?
9. Why did God give His laws, if He knew that no one could keep them?

CHAPTER FIVE

Being Well Pleasing in the Sight of God

We want to deal with a very important issue in the Christian's life. It has to do with our personal relationship with our heavenly Father. This is very important in maintaining the right communication with God the Father. Being well pleasing in the sight of God, means that we can depend upon God the Holy Spirit to guide us in our understanding of the Word of God. This guarantees us, as children of God that we will enjoy God's wonderful love. *"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

1 Corinthians 6:20. God expects us to glorify His name as members of that Royal family of God. This made possible by the new birth provided by God the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3,7; 1 Cor. 12:13.)

Maintaining Good Relationship with God.

As children of the Royal family of God, we are under the tutorship of God the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. (John 14:16-17.) We must keep in good relationship with the Holy Spirit.

1. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 4:30.)
2. He comforts us in times when needed. (John 14:26.)
3. He provides the power to overcome the desires of the flesh. (Zechariah 4:6; Galatians 3:1-5.)
4. He guides us into all truth. (Isaiah 48:16; Romans 8:14.)
5. He continually uplifts us in prayer. (Romans 8:26.)
6. He desires to continually keep on filling us with Himself. (Ephesians 5:18.)
7. He restrains evil forces in this world. (2 Thessalonians 2:7; Isaiah 59:19.)
8. He convicts of sin in our lives. (John 16:8.)
9. He can be grieved when we do not allow Him to guide us through the Word. (Eph. 4:30.)
10. He is our teacher, as we study the Word of God. (John 16:13.)
11. He provides gifts to the children of God. (1 Corinthians 12:11.)
12. Through God the Holy Spirit we can bear much fruit to the glory of our Creator. (John 15:8.)

God cannot tolerate sin in any shape or form. All must be under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who are in the Royal Family of God can expect discipline when sin rules their life. *"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?"* Hebrews 12:6-7. We as parents desire that our children grow up with respect for others and accomplish something well worth while in their life. That is why we train up a child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Proverbs 22:6.) So with the Lord, Therefore it is of the greatest importance that we remain in good standing with God the Father, as members of the Royal family of God. No one likes to be punished, and that is why we must know the rules of the Bible. *"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."* Proverbs 19:18. Abiding in the Word of God will avoid chastening from God the Father. We

who are Christians are aware of God the Holy Spirit in our lives. We need to keep on being filled by Him and not grieve Him in our daily walk with the Lord. (Ephesians 5:18; 4:30;) God the Father speaks to us through the Bible as God the Holy Spirit teaches us the principles of the Word of God. God knows that as we go through this present life that we fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23.) That is why we need to know God's method of cleansing. (1 John 1:9.) The Word of God reminds us, *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:"* Proverbs 23:7a. This brings us to the importance of having the right attitude toward God as well as our fellow believers.

The Believer's Attitude Toward God.

We study the Word of God not merely for the knowledge of the Bible, but also to establish God's viewpoint in our life. Bible study requires a right attitude toward God. We do not practice a form of godliness, denying our total dependence upon God, as the source of power. *"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."* 2 Timothy 3:5. Christianity is a relationship with God, rather than a religion. Christians are members of the body of Christ, and the Lord Jesus Christ as the head of the body must have the preeminent place in our lives. *"And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell;"* Colossians 1:18. It is easy for the natural man to look religious, and covered with outward robes, but it is another thing to have the right attitude toward God.

Following are three aspects of the Christian's life of service.

Good Works by Christians.

As a national Christian leader, you have a choice to either do service for personal gain, or to do service to glorify the Lord. If you are desirous for personal prestige and gain, you are under the control of the human viewpoint. If you desire to do your good works as unto the Lord, then you are building up rewards and emphasizing the Divine viewpoint in your ministry. God sees your motive and knows every thought and intent of your mind. Nothing is hidden from God, who knows the end from the very beginning. Your good works become wood, hay, or stubble in your personal gain or gold, silver, and precious stones, as you glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is not the issue, but rather good works and rewards, according to faithfulness in the work of the Lord. *"Now if any man build upon this foundation (The Lord Jesus Christ) gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abideth which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."* 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. *"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* 2 Corinthians 5:10.

If your good works are done for your personal gain and prestige, they become bad works, before Almighty God. If your good works are done for the glory and honor of God, then your good works remain as good works before God. You will then receive from God eternal rewards for your faithfulness. I want to remain faithful unto the Lord, until He calls me home. It will be sufficient for me if my Lord says unto me, *"Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."* Matthew 25:21. Be a faithful witness for the Lord, regardless of your circumstances. God is always mindful of those who are faithful to that great commission. *"And let us not be wearing in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* Galatians 6:9. Your every effort to please God the Father is taken into account, as we pass through this present life. Our good works should always be done in appreciation as to what God has done for us. *"For the love of Christ constraineth us:"* 2 Corinthians 5:14a.

All Religions Fall Short of the Glory of God.

The religions of the world with their idols, work on the principles that God will find favor in their efforts to do good or in their efforts to deprive themselves of pleasures or gain. Some torture themselves, give to the poor and perform many good deeds on a regular basis. This avails nothing before God, for the Word of God says. *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like a wind have taken us away."* Isaiah 64:6. This certainly discredits all, as unprofitable in God's sight and we must accept God's provision for forgiveness, through the Lord Jesus Christ who is the only way, the truth and the Life. (John 14:6.) All the religious works fall short of the requirements of God. In contrast God has done the work and has made wonderful provisions for eternity, to those who accept his plan. May this be our testimony, *"I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Philippians 4:12-13. Your good works will be acceptable before God if they are performed through the power of the Holy Spirit and in harmony with His Plan.

Good Works Acceptable to God.

Good works are only acceptable to God when performed by a member of "The Royal Family of God" one who has already accepted Christ as his personal Savior. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."* John 3:16-17. This amounts to accepting God's perfect righteousness through His Son, rather than trying to gain God's grace through our own self righteousness. And when we are established in the righteousness of God, we are capable of good works through the power of the Holy Spirit. *"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* 2 Timothy 3:17. Your good works will be evaluated at the Judgement seat of Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:10) Now, if those works which you do after you have

become a Christian were done for praise of men, or glory to yourself, then they will burn to a crisp as wood hay and stubble. But, if on the other hand you do good works in response to the filling of the Holy Spirit, they will be become as gold, silver and precious stones.

(1 Cor.3:12-21.) God knows the origin of our works and will award accordingly. May each of us be found faithful to our Precious Lord who bought us out of the slave market of sin, with His precious blood, which was shed on Calvary's cross.

Rewards That God Will Offer for Faithfulness

1. A new name according to our faithfulness. (Luke 10:20; Revelation 3:12.)
2. Rulers over much. (Matthew 25:21.)
3. Good works that shall not be burned at the judgement seat of Christ.(1 Cor. 3:12-15.)
4. Crowns that can be presented to Christ as a gift. (1 Corinthians 9:25; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1 Peter 5:4; Revelation 2:10; 3:11.)
5. Eternal good works. (Ephesians 2:10.)
6. Manifestation of continuing in the love of Christ. (John 15:9-10.)

Rewards for Following the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Troubled souls are comforted through Christ. (John 14:1.)
2. The right direction for arriving in Heaven. (John 14:6.)
3. God's truth revealed through Christ. (John 14:6.)
4. Eternal life in the presence of God. (John 14:6.)
5. The Divine spark through God the Holy Spirit. (John 3:3-7; 14:16; 16:7.)
6. Become members of the Royal family of God. (1 Peter 2:9.)
7. Continual intercession before the throne of God. (John 17:14-17; Hebrews 7:25.)
8. You become an ambassador by Christ. (John 17:18; 2 Corinthians 5:20.)
9. A member of the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27.)
10. Special gifts which God has entrusted to you. (1 Corinthians 12:28-31.)
11. Baptism by God the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13.)
12. Preparation to be the bride of Christ. (Revelation 19:7-10.)
13. You shall rule and reign with Christ. (Revelation 5:10.)
14. We are to bear much fruit to glorify God. (John 15:8.)
15. Blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:3.)

The Attitude of the Believer Concerning Good Works.

The attitude of the believer is very important as we bear fruit for the Lord. There are certain conditions which must be met. Read carefully John 15:1-14. and you will discover the following principles in the service of the Lord. God wants us to be fruitful in the ministry upon this earth. We are called out ones from the natural pattern of this world system. Let us examine these issues set forth by God's Word.

1. Abiding in the Lord as the source of power and life to produce much fruit. (John 15:7.)
2. Bearing fruit brings glory to God the Father. (John 15:8)
3. Being fruitful for the Lord brings joy from the Lord.
4. Being filled by God the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 5:18.)
5. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by a life of sin. (Ephesians 4:30.)
6. Keep short accounts with God. (1 John 1:9)
7. Abiding with in Christ as the vine produces fruit unto the Lord. (John 15:4-5.)
8. When you fail to do your good works, your fruit is destroyed upon the branch. (John 15:6.)
9. Our prayers are granted if we abide in Christ and the Word. (John 15:7.)
10. We glorify God the Father by fruit bearing as followers of the Lord. (John 15:8.)
11. Christ shares His love of the Father with us as we continue glorifying His name. (John 15:9.)
12. This love prevents discord among the brethren. (Proverbs 6:19; John 15:10-14.)

The Results of Good Works by the Believer.

Our good works toward God should always be in response to Spirit filled life. Our good works cannot add to our salvation but are a result of our new nature. God sorts our good works according to our motivation. If done to boast before men, then all these works are useless before God. According to the Word of God, not all good works will be accepted at the Judgement Seat of Christ. Good works that are done to be seen of men become as wood, hay, and stubble and will be removed by fire. However, since God cannot deny Himself, the believer shall be saved so as by fire, with all their boastful works destroyed. (1 Corinthians 3:15.)

The results of spiritually motivated good works will stand the test of eternity. Therefore it is of great importance that we serve the Lord with all of our heart, soul and mind. We must abide in the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Author and Finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2.) *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."* 2 Corinthians 4:7.) As we give to the work of the Lord, God is mindful of our reasons for giving. *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."* 2 Corinthians 9:7-8.

Results of Doing Good Works Toward God.

1. You receive comfort from the Holy Spirit in pleasing God (John 14:26.)
2. Because of the believers faithfulness, added gifts can be given. (1 Corinthians 12:11.)
3. The Word of God becomes understood as we serve the Lord. (Romans 12:1-23.)
4. Divine power is furnished to perform good works toward God. (Galatians 3:1-5.)
5. Doing good works toward God causes one to rejoice. (Philippians 2:16-18; 3:1-3; 4:4.)
6. A special crown that we can present to Christ. (Revelation 4:4-10.)
7. A special name will be given according to your faithfulness in this life. (Revelation 2:17.)

The eternal results of good works.

We as believers are left in this world to be tested, exercising our faith. The world becomes as "A Boot Training Center". We often are brought to cross roads in our life, and God lets us make the final decision as free moral agents. God is training us for eternity in His Word. We will be entrusted with proportionate responsibilities in the new heavens and the new earth. It reminds us of the parable of the talents. (Matthew 25:14-30.) Be careful how you use the natural and spiritual gifts that God gives to you. May we consider the use of these talents and the results of being faithful to the Lord. The Lord is always mindful of every member of the body of Christ. Our good works unto the Lord have an eternal results.

Conclusion.

As Christians, our lives belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who bought us out from the slave market of sin. He desires to show forth His glory from within! God wants us to patiently wait upon Him. *"Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."* 1 Peter 5:7. The Lord has a great interest in your life and desires to bring you into His eternal glory. We accept God's promises by faith, with evidence and reality from the Bible. (Hebrews 11:1.) Our lives have been sealed by God the Holy Spirit, (Ephesians 1:13.) therefore we know that it is well with our soul, and we have God's Divine teacher living within our lives. God is mindful of your attitude toward His promises and will reward you according to your faithfulness. We are sinners, saved by grace, based upon the finished work of Christ. That Divine love, manifested upon the Cross needs to flow through our lives to those who are in need of so great salvation. The great commission has been given and may we share the good news with those whom the devil has confused! Let us seek to be well pleasing unto the Lord. Let the love of the Lord Jesus Christ be seen in our lives for His glory and honor.

May each of us, as believers, be more cautious in serving the Lord. May we allow the Lord to be our Potter, to mold and make us after His will. Your motives, whatever they may be are not hidden from our Omniscient God. We may hide our thoughts from our fellow man, but nothing is hidden from God. *"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, as to that which we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."* Philippians 3:14-16.

God desires that we accomplish good works that will remain throughout eternity. He is testing each Christian in this life and rewarding them in the life to come. Your faithfulness to God in this present life is but training for eternity. God is developing each of us as Christians, under severe circumstances, so that we can be given great responsibilities in eternity to come.

It is God that will decide, whether your thoughts, words and deeds are according to His will. God knows your every intention through your action. *"These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among the brethren."* Prov. 6:16-19.

May each of us examine ourselves and see if there is any wicked thing in our lives that is displeasing to God. As you study God's Word, allow God the Holy Spirit to convict you of anything that God hates.

May the Lord open the eyes of each of us through His Precious Word! Faith is the victory which will overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* Ephesians 6:10-13.

Let us examine the whole armor of God, so that we know of what it consists.

1. Dependant upon the Lord and His mighty power. (Ephesians 6:10.)
2. The whole armor which is the whole Bible. (Ephesians 6:11.)
3. The Holy Spirit dwells within us to defend us against spiritual wickedness. (Ephesians 6:12.)
4. The truth which is according to God's Word. (Ephesians 6:14a; John 14:6.)
5. The righteousness of God will only stand the test of time. (Ephesians 6:14b.)
6. That great commission, the Gospel of peace. (Ephesians 6:15; Matthew 28:18-20.)
7. Having great faith in the Living God. (Ephesians 6:16; Hebrews 11:1.)
8. So great salvation is the message of the gospel. (Ephesians 6:17a; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3.)
9. The sword of the Holy Spirit which is the Word of God. Praying always in the Spirit. (Ephesians 6:17b,18; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.)

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER FIVE.

1. How does a Christian keep in good relationship with God? Scripture.
2. Which is more important? Being religious or established and obedient to God's Word?
3. What is required for God to accept our good works? (1 Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10.)
4. Name some rewards that will be given for our faithfulness.
5. What attitude should we have toward good works?
6. What results should a believer enjoy in doing good works?
7. How does one accomplish good works? (1 Peter 5:17.)
8. Why is it necessary for us to be faithful to God in this present life?
9. Explain the difference between the Human viewpoint and the Divine Viewpoint.
10. Why should the Christians want to do good works?
11. Explain the difference between good works for self and good works for the glory of God.
12. How does one maintain the right attitude toward God?
13. Why is it always necessary to come before God for cleansing?
14. Why is it necessary to daily read and study God's Word, as we go through this present life?
15. Why do we need an Advocate in Heaven? (1 John 2:1.)
16. How will God test our good works, when the Rapture takes place? Scripture please.

CHAPTER SIX.

The Influence of the Word of God.

Since the Word of God is alive and powerful (Hebrews 4:12.), God's Word will continue forever, *"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away"* Matthew 24:35. This is an astounding statement from the Lord. Certainly if God sees fit to keep the Word, you and I should learn as much as possible from the Word. God has purposely given us the Holy Spirit, who will keep on guiding us into all truth. The Bible can solve every problem that comes to mankind. It has the answer to every problem that may arise in our lives. The Bible makes the difference in our whole attitude of life. God has given us sufficient revelation for our lives. The Bible is the Word of God, and just a fraction of God's limitless knowledge. Since God is not a God of confusion, He desires that our lives become stable with confidence in God, through His Word. The Bible is intended to be the anchor of our soul and the power of God in our life.

The Power of the Word of God.

Since the Word of God is eternal and immutable, it is also powerful. *"For the Word of God is alive and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: But all things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."* Hebrews 4:12-13. This should tell us the influence that the Bible should have upon our lives. All of God's judgements are based upon His character as manifested in the Word of God. We should not measure our standards according to the natural man, but rather according to God's standards set forth in the Bible. The Bible is powerful because it is the Word of God. This written Word comes directly from God and must be considered in our daily life. The Bible is necessary in our life and must not be ignored in any way! There are no revelations apart from the truth found in the Word of God, and these truths are to be made available to all. May we examine the Word of God, as a necessary part of our lives. If it were not for the Bible, the outlook in this present world would be in absolute confusion. We as human beings would have no hope whatsoever! Without the Bible we would be lost and without hope in the ages to come. I thank God for His provision of the Bible, as God the Holy Spirit used men of God for His revelation.

The Necessity of the Word of God.

The Bible is God's message to totally depraved mankind and explains the necessity to become new creatures in Christ Jesus. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."* 2 Corinthians 5:17-19. The

Word of God is specific as to God's requirements for forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness. There is no way whatsoever that we can earn our forgiveness, but must depend entirely upon the grace of God through the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the living Word of God. (John 1:1-5.) Let us discuss the true value of the Word of God to those who believe.

The Value of the Word of God to the Believers.

The Word of God is as the compass is to the Mariner, guiding us along life's pathway. It is God's way of communicating to us, under the direction of God the Holy Spirit. May we always remember that the Word of God is our protection against the wiles of the devil. We keep in fellowship with God by being guided into all the necessary truth, through the Word of God. Here are a few benefits that we obtain through our applied knowledge of the Bible.

The Word of God

1. It prevents us from sinning. (Psalm 119:11.)
2. The Word of God gives us guidance. (Psalm 119:105.)
3. It cleanses our lives. (Psalm 119:9.)
4. It gives us joy. (Psalm 119:35.)
5. It gives comforts and restores life. (Psalm 119:50.)
6. It is immutable. (Psalm 119:89.)
7. It gives confidence and assurance. (John 10:27-30.)
8. It is God's Word to mankind. (Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119.)

The Bible is God's way of communicating with His earthly creatures and contains the method of maintaining the perfect fellowship with the Triune God. It is not a book of imaginations or earthly declarations, but it is God's revelations. It contains messages from God, and the total depravity of mankind. Through the Bible, we learn to know about the true and living God. In the original revelation from God it is without error, and is thoroughly understood as it is translated into many languages. The Bible upholds and declares the Triune God who is from everlasting to everlasting. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:3; 14:7; 15:26; 17:1-15; Revelation 1:8.) We learn that the Triune God has many names, but the same God with a perfect unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. This marvelous living Word from God reveals our absolute hopelessness, apart from God and His intervention, by the Lord Jesus Christ. God's everlasting love toward mankind is revealed in the Bible, and God's provision of a Redeemer is clearly stated. May we study God's Word and see some of the results that it has in the lives of those saints down through the ages.

The Power of the Word of God Through the Believer.

Make no mistake about the Word of God for it is powerful and eternal. *"So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that*

which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isaiah 55:11. May we not try to classify the Bible as just another religious book, but know as for certain that *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"* (2 Timothy 3:16. The Word is God's way of communicating with us and establishing the saints in His laws and statutes. God has shown us his characteristics and given us His Word whereby the believers can be a witness to the unbelievers.

"For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." Hebrews 4:12-13. No writings in this whole world can even be compared to God's Word, which has been given to us by God. You may say, but what about all of those people who wrote these things in the Bible? Were they not in vessels of clay like ours? May I remind you that these writers were but vessels through whom God the Holy Spirit gave them knowledge as to what to write. That is why every writer of the Scriptures harmonizes with each other with no discrepancies. That is also why there are predictions of things to come that the writers, often did not understand. The Word of God in the original writings is absolutely without error!

The written Word of God is established forever, and it is God's way of guiding us according to His will. The Word of God is part of our battle gear against the wiles of the devil. It is the one thing that the evil forces fear more than anything. *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* Ephesians 6:10-13.

Transformed Lives Through God's Word.

1. Adam and Eve. (Genesis 1:26-27; Gen.3:15,21.)
2. Abel learned that sacrifices of blood was necessary for the remission of sins. (Genesis 4:4.)
3. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. (Genesis 6:8.)
4. Abram called of God. (Genesis 12:1-3.)
5. Isaac and Jacob inherited the blessings of Abraham. (Genesis 24-32.)
6. Joseph exalted by God in preserving the Messianic hope. (Genesis 41:14-47:31.)
7. Moses, God's chosen vessel. (Exodus 3:1-22.)
8. A Levitical order set by God for communication. (The Book of Leviticus.)
9. Joshua and Caleb remained true to God and richly blessed. (The Book of Joshua)
10. God's faithful judges used by God to glorify His name. (The Book of Judges)
11. Ruth and Boaz kept alive the Messianic hope. (The Book of Ruth.)
12. Hannah faithful to God, the mother of Samuel. (1 Samuel 1:1-7:17.)
13. David and an unconditional covenant. (1 Chr. 17:11-13; 2 Sam.7:16,24; 1 Ki 8:23; 9:5.)
14. Solomon chose wisdom from God above riches. (2 Chronicles 1:7-12.)
15. Elijah and Elisha those great prophets of God. (1 Kings 17-2 Kings 13:20.)

16. King Cyrus God's shepherd and anointed of God. (Isaiah 44:28; Ezra 1:1-4.)
17. Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther, God's vessels. (The Books of Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.)
18. Faithful Job. (The Book of Job)
19. The Prophet Isaiah. (The Book of Isaiah)
20. Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Habakkuk, God's special prophets under severe conditions. (The Books of Jeremiah, Zephaniah and Habakkuk.)
21. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego remained faithful to God. (The Book of Daniel)
22. Many prophets of the Old Testament who declared the only true God. (Hosea to Malachi.)
23. John the Baptist. (Malachi 3:1.)
24. Elizabeth and Mary and other faithful women of the New Testament.
25. The disciples of Jesus and the many believers of the New Testament.
26. Stephen the first martyr of the church. (Acts 7:54-60.)
27. The New Testament saints from Pentecost until the Rapture.
28. The Tribulation Saints. (Revelation 7:9-17.)
29. The Kingdom Saints. (Isaiah 11 and 65; Revelation 20:4.)
30. The Eternal saints of all ages (Revelation 21-22.)

These all give witness and testimony to the only true and living God. *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life. For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us; That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all."* 1 John 1:1-5. The Word of God has great purpose in our lives for now and eternity. The Bible is infallible and it is the one and only inspired Word of God to mankind. God has purposely put His Word into writing, so that it would avoid many errors, which would occur if just given verbally. Let us review God's purpose for the Bible.

The Purpose of the Word of God in the Believer.

As we have mentioned previously the Bible is of great value to the believer. There is no guess work, for "Thus saith the Lord". It not only gives us comfort, but it reveals the total plan of God for all ages. We do not have to remain in the darkness. If we will study God's Word, and rightly divide it, God's plan becomes clear. God's plan includes the future destruction of all evil forces. The Word of God also gives us insight into the glorious New heaven and the new earth. He has revealed His character to us and has shown His loving kindness toward us. In conclusion may we list just a few benefits believers have through the Word of God.

1. The creation of all by the Triune God. (Genesis 1:1.)
2. The plan of God is made known. (Daniel and Revelation.)

3. The way of salvation is established in the Word of God. (John 3:16.)
4. The prevention of false doctrine as we study the Word. (2 Peter 2:1-21.)
5. Knowledge of the Word establishes our faith in God. (Colossians 2:3.)
6. The Word of God keeps the unity within the assembly of believers. (1 John 1:7.)
7. The Word of God stabilizes us in our daily life. (Psalm 119:11.)
8. The future creation by God where sin will be no more. (Dan.9:24.)
9. Direct communication with God through His written Word. (Isaiah 7:7.)
10. Giving the believers confidence in the future. (1 John 3:20-21.)
11. Helps the believers to deal with all difficulties. (1 Peter 5:7.)
12. Causes the believers to rejoice in the Lord. (Philippians 3:1.)

Biblical Unity

"I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word." Psalm 119:14-16. God has revealed wondrous things to us, so that we through God the Holy Spirit may live fruitful lives for God's glory. God wants to talk to each of us through His living Word and desires us to . *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."* 2 Timothy 2:15-16. God's desire is that we might study the Bible, being led by God the Holy Spirit. God's Word is limitless and is filled with blessings untold! May each of you diligently search the Scriptures and be established in the precious promises of God. May we feast upon the meat of God's Word, having full knowledge from God's Word, so that we can share it with other hungry souls. Our Lord has sent us forth as His witnesses with His saving grace. The fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are so few! Let the light of God's precious Word shine through our lives to others who are lost and dying in trespasses and sin.

Sin had been the barrier between God and man, and that barrier has been removed by the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no excuse for those who are the saints of God to live a defeated life. *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."* 1 John 2:15-17. God desires to use our lives as instruments in His hands, manifesting His mighty power through these earthen vessels. We are not worthy of this calling, for it is only by the grace of God that He allows us to serve. *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."* Romans 13:1. *"But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned, By the Word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left."* 2 Corinthians 6:4-7. *"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we*

ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21.

Conclusion

God's Word is the most powerful written record that this world has ever known. It supersedes all of the encyclopedias that man can write, as well as all of man's books of knowledge. God's Word has been changing lives down through the centuries and will continue as God's Word with great force throughout eternity. The Bible portrays the message directly from the Triune God. It is always fresh and inspiring to those who believe. It is part of the armor of the saints to withstand the wiles of the devil. It is our evidence and substance, establishing our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since the Word of God is established forever, most certainly, we need to study diligently, to hide God's Word in our hearts that we might not sin against our Creator. (Psalm 119:11.) It is God's way of teaching us His statutes and preparing us for eternity. *"Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy Word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgements are good. Behold I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness."* Ps. 119:33-40.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER SIX.

1. Why is the Bible necessary for our knowing about God? Scripture please.
2. What influence does the Bible have on your life? Give Scripture.
3. What hope does God offer to mankind through the Bible? Scripture please.
4. Why is it necessary to become a new creature, rather than just reform? (2 Corinthians 5:17.)
5. Name some benefits that you receive from the Bible, since you became a Christian.
6. Does God's Word ever lose its power? Isaiah 55:11.
7. Explain 2 Timothy 3:16.
8. How is the Bible different from every other book in this world?
9. Give some outstanding transformed lives mentioned in the Bible.
10. What purpose did God have in giving the Bible to mankind?
11. What benefits do we have in believing what the Bible says?
12. Do language differences prevent us from fellowship around the Bible? Explain.
13. Why is it necessary to keep on studying the Bible, regardless of how much you know?
14. What is God's purpose in giving us the Bible?
15. How would you explain life after death to a heathen person?
16. What is the Gospel?
17. What principles do you apply when teaching the Bible to those who have never been taught?

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Glories Available in the Word of God.

As we study the Bible, we become aware of the future glories for those who put their trust in the Triune God. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath He set a tabernacle for the sun. Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and His circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than the honey and the honeycomb."* Psalm 19:1-10. There has never been a time that God has had to alter the eternal plans of all ages! The Bible is God's method of talking to us for we read. "Thus saith the Lord". God's revelation gives us understanding in this present life and confidence of the future.

What God has recorded in the Bible gives us tremendous hope of the future, as well as what He has done in the past. God's ways are past our understanding or finding out. We must take Him by His Word! I thank God for the hope that we have as Christians and that we can stand upon the promises of God.

The Past.

God has recorded sufficient detail in the Bible for a clear understanding of the past. The creation by God "After it's kind". *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, the beast of the earth after his kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him. male and female created He them."* Genesis 1:24-27.

In God's omniscience, He created mankind in His own image, He knew that mankind would become totally depraved, and prepared for such a condition. God's total plan in the past determined to rid all of His future creation from the presence of sin. I constantly wish to remind you that the key verse of the whole Bible and plan of God is Daniel 9:24. I cannot over emphasize the final results to which God is working, in and through His Incarnate Son, when He went to the Cross of Calvary.

Yes, it is a long process. God is working toward that end, and it will be accomplished in the fullness of time. God preserved the Messianic lineage, in spite of the evil powers. The total price for sin was paid at the Cross. God judged sin, when He allowed His Eternal Son to bear the sins of the whole world. All of mankind is without excuse and those that reject Christ will be

condemned to the wrath of God forever and ever in the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:11-15.) God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12:29.) God's love has been fully manifested through Christ, who declared. *"Jesus said unto them, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6. This requires a personal decision, accepting or rejecting, the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. If we accept we are given a new nature being born of God the Holy Spirit, making the believer a new creature in Christ Jesus. (John 3:7;16-17;18,36; 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Present

Today is the day of salvation and we must take advantage of God's provisions for eternity. Tomorrow may be too late. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* Acts 4:12. We are coming to the close of the church age and the Rapture of the true church is drawing very near. The signs of the time are evidence and we need to be ready for the sounding of that heavenly trumpet. (1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18.) The Lord has given us that great commission (Matthew 28:18-20.), and it is imperative that we send forth the Gospel message while there is still time. God desires that we send forth the Gospel light, fulfilling the desire of our savior. *"As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."* John 17:18. Now is the accepted time to send forth the Gospel message. (2 Corinthians 6:1-2.

The clouds are forming and the signs of the time are pointing to the Rapture of the true church, out from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:10.) As we approach the year two thousand we wonder "How soon"? The common market of Europe has to be a fore-runner of the Revival of the Roman Empire. Israel is moving back to her promised land, being made ready for her final punishment because of her rejection of the Messiah. Israel's enemies are making it difficult for her to settle in her land peacefully. It all adds up to the final days. We have great expectations of that marvelous "Air Lift" into Paradise and those mansions of God the Father.

Future

The Word of God is very specific about the future, and we can know things that the future holds as we study the Word of God. We may not know all that the future holds, but we know the Living God who holds the future in His mighty power. Let us just list some of these events of the future, as God has revealed them in the Word of God.

1. The Rapture of the true church, to be taken out from the wrath to come. The saints shall receive glorified bodies. (John 14:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 John 3:1-3.)
2. Daniel's 70th week to take place when the true church is raptured. (Revelation 6-18.)
3. The Judgement Seat of Christ will be a time of rewards for the saints from the Living God. (1 Corinthians 3:12-16; 2 Corinthians 5:10.)
4. The marriage of the Lamb of God. (Revelation 19:7-10.)
5. The prepared Bridal chambers in the mansions of God the Father. (John 14:1-3.)

6. The marriage feast and communion with the Bridegroom. (Rev. 19:9; Matthew 25:28-29.)
7. That great heavenly battle against Satan. (Revelation 9:1-12; 12:7-12.)
8. God will send Moses and Elijah to herald the coming kingdom. (Rev. 11:3-12.)
9. The Battle of Armageddon. (Revelation 19:17-21.)
10. The Doom of the beast and the false prophet. (Revelation 19:20.)
11. The Doom of the rulers of this world. (Revelation 19:21.)
12. Satan and the demons become prisoners during the thousand year kingdom. (Rev. 20:1-3.)
13. The final battle against Christ and His kingdom. (Revelation 20:7-9.)
14. The eternal doom of Satan and his demons, in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. (Rev. 20:10.)
15. The Great White Throne Judgement against all the ungodly of all ages. (Rev. 20:11-15.)
16. The New Heavens and the New Earth with the glory of God forever and ever. The final stage of God's eternal plans when sin will be no more. God shall bring to pass the "Eternal Utopia" with "Paradise Found". (Daniel 9:24; Revelation 21-22.)
17. God will make all things new. (Revelation 21:5.)

The Revelation of the Character of God.

As God had to hunt out Adam and Eve after they sinned, so God through His glorious Word has revealed His love toward us and has supplied a remedy for our sins and established it in the Word of God. The Triune God has revealed through the written Word the absolute and perfect character of God, so that we might turn to the Godhead for help. Understanding the character of God through the Word of God, gives us hope, setting us free from the bondage of sin. We learn that the Eternal Son of God, paid it all by dying on Calvary's cross. God has revealed His character to us in many ways.

1. God is the ever existing One, "The Alpha and the Omega." (Revelation 1:11.)
2. God is sole Creator of all things. (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3.)
3. God is the source of all life. (Genesis 1:26-27; John 1:4.)
4. God manifested His love toward us. (John 3:16-17.)
5. God was willing to take a form of man, becoming the Incarnate One, so that He could pay the debt of sin for all who believed. (Ephesians 1:4.)
6. God provided salvation with unlimited atonement. (Romans 10:13; John 3:17; 2 Peter 3:9.)
7. God will dwell with mankind forever in the future, when sin shall be no more! (Revelation 21:22; Daniel 9:24.)

The Declaration of the Ways of God.

The Word of God in writing has declared the ways of God. There are many things that we do not understand, but we accept God's Word by faith, knowing that He doeth all things well. As I often say, according to the Word of God, that God's character and glory never change, or can be added to or taken away. The Triune God is equal in power individually, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Of course the Father cannot be seen. (John 1:18.) However we are told from the Word "It

is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save He which is of God, He hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John 6:45-47. The Eternal Son of God is the Father's representative, who is to have the preeminence throughout eternity and will be the one whom we shall behold. *"No man hath seen God at anytime; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him."* John 1:18. We all are familiar to some degree of the declaration from the Lord Jesus Christ concerning the way to God. *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"* John 11:25-26. This is God the Father's way of declaring that there is but a single way into everlasting life.

God's Way to Everlasting Life.

Although there may be many roads that lead to Rome, or any other great city, there is but one way that leads to heaven. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me".* John 14:6. God is not a God of confusion but of unity and consistency in everything, thought, word and deed. Although we will not see the Father directly, when we see the Lord face to face, who is exactly like the Father, it will be a satisfying experience to see the Lord Jesus Christ. *"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him."* John 14:7. I personally am looking forward to seeing the Lord Jesus Christ, "Face to Face", when that Rapture takes place. Let's consider some of these marvelous and glorious things of God.

God's gift of eternal life is exactly what God has said. This present life is not the end, but only the beginning. We who have placed our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ have started on the trail of a new life that will never end. As I worked with the Masai tribe in Kenya for many years, it was a marvelous discovery how they said everlasting life. In quoting John 3:16, they would say, "Egishon ne mayting", which means "Life that never ends". There is also another word that they use sparingly and that is "Egishui", which refers to an eternal or everlasting life. Their conception of eternal life is drastically different from God's Word. Their everlasting life is thought to be transferable. As they bare children, they became the continuation of their individual life. Their personal life is thought to come to an end, and transferred to their children and children's children. That is why they call women "Suji" (bad), when they do not bare children. The Bible teaches us that we have everlasting life as individuals, some have eternal life with the love of God and the ungodly have eternal death, with the wrath of God. (John 3:18,36; Revelation 20:5-6,12-15.)

God has promised eternal life to all who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, as their personal Savior. *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"* John 11:25-26. There will be a separation between the saints of God and the ungodly of the devil. No one can be neutral and expect to make their choice after they enter eternity. That decision must be made during this life span, or else it is too late. *"Therefore we*

ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation: which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?" Hebrews 21-4.

The Glories of God as Related by the Eternal God.

One day, we shall see the eternal glories of God, when all things are made new. God has promised these things in the Bible and we know without a shadow of doubt that this shall be a glorious "Utopia"! We have listed some of the things of the future and we can rest assured that God will add many things where sin will never molest. That is why God's written Word gives us great assurance and confidence, knowing, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begot He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, and slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God."* James 1:17-20. God is long suffering toward all, but there will come a day when the wrath of God will be poured out upon all the ungodly.

We have had a foretaste of the glories of God in this present creation in which we live. Even though nature has been changed due to the sin of man, yet there are many wonderful things for us to behold and compare with the beauty to come, when God creates all things new. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork."* Psalm 19:1. Yes, we have sufficient evidence as we behold the marvels of God's creation. As some believers leave this present state of life and enter into the heights of Paradise they often see wonders beyond any expression and shout with joy as they leave this life. *"But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."* 1 Corinthians 2:9-10. There is no excuse, fellow believers, for you not to be familiar with the things which God is preparing for His own. There are wonderful revelations within the Word of God pertaining to future glories which we shall share with God as well as with the saints of all ages. We may not have all of the details that we would like of certain events in God's creation, but many of the riches of God have been recorded in the Word of God. *"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that has this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."* 1 John 3:1-3.

Biblical Glories of God.

1. A glimpse of the heavenlies. (Isaiah 6:1-8; Deut. 10:14; Psalm 119:89; Rev. 11:15-19.)
2. A perfect garden of Eden. (Genesis 2:8-20.)
3. A sample of what the heavenly temple looks like. (Revelation 11:19.)
4. The Transfiguration of the Lord. (Matthew 17:1-3; Mark 9:2-3.)
5. The angelic hosts. (Isaiah 6:2-4; Genesis 28:12; Psalm 68:17; Matthew 16:27; 26:53; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Hebrews 12:22.)
6. Mansions in the heavenlies. (John 14:1-6.)
7. The great quantities of precious gems in God's future creations. (Revelation 21:9-21.)
8. The millennial reign of Christ. (Isaiah 2:4; 11:6-9; 65; Revelation 20:4-6.)
9. The future Paradise. (Revelation 22:1-7.)
10. The New Heavens and the New Earth. (Revelation 21:1-6.)
11. The Throne of God. (Isaiah 6:1-8.)
12. The heavens declare the glory of God. (Psalm 19:1-6.)
13. Our Glorious and Great God. (2 Chronicles 2:6.)

Conclusion

The best is yet to come when the sinless perfection of the Triune God will become ours for all of eternity. The studying of God's Word will give you a better understanding of the things which God wants to share with us. The Written Word of God establishes confidence as we travel through this life. Spend much time in the reading of God's Word, which gives us a hope which maketh not ashamed. The Bible in its entirety is the Word of God. We are never too young, or too old to allow the Word of God to teach us the Divine viewpoint from God.

As pilgrims and so-journers in this world we are in need of God's Word to guide us through our life span. The more we know of God's Word and His promises, the more at home we will be in Paradise. God has richly blessed us and separated us from the wrath to come. May we close by quoting some of the rich blessings that we can claim in heavenly places. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the Word of Truth, the*

gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1:3-14.

God has been gracious to all those who will trust Him, and our credentials for all that is promised is clearly set forth in the Printed Word of God. Our blessings in Christ Jesus are established in the Written Word and proclaimed in the heavenlies. God has promised us eternal riches untold, for which we should rejoice. This present life is but a moment compared to eternity, where we will have pleasures forever more. Our God is a marvelous God, who has loved us with an everlasting love. One day, we shall share His glory, by the grace of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Students of the Bible, study God's Word, not merely for knowledge of it, but also for the truth that we can use in our Christian life. *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."* Psalm 1:1-6.

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER SEVEN

1. What truth do you understand that is written in Psalm 19:1-10.
2. Does God ever have to alter the teachings of the Bible? Explain why.
3. What do we gain from the past fulfillment of Bible truths?
4. Explain Genesis 1:24-27.
5. Has God had several ways of salvation from Genesis to Revelation? Give your reason for your answer.
6. What is the present duty of Christians?
7. Give 10 or more future prophecies dealt with in the Bible.
8. Name the characteristics of the Triune God as found in the Bible, and their Scripture.
9. Name seven ways that God has revealed Himself to us as found in the Bible.
10. Explain John 6:45-47; and John 1:18.
11. How is Christianity different from all religions? Give Scripture.
12. How does one obtain everlasting life? Quote Scriptures.
13. Explain some of the glories of God as found in the Bible.
14. What does the Bible mean to you.
15. Name some of the blessings that we receive from God through the Bible.
16. Explain Ephesians 1:3-14.
17. Write an essay on "Biblical Doctrines".

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