

## COURSE INTRODUCTION BOOKLET

### INTRODUCTION

In the audio tape course the first eleven tapes form a pre diploma study to confirm that the Lord is calling the applicant to undertake the course.

At the end of the eleven lectures there are five questions that the applicant has to answer as part of the application to join the course. [see final page]

To do the complete course with its 32 assignments will normally take the student at least two years so it is of the utmost importance that the Lord's place for you for the next two to three years is doing the course.

May the Lord bless you as you prayerfully consider this matter.

### LECTURE 1

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

The Bible is for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. The instruction is similar to that used for the instruction of a young person. We are therefore under the authority of the Word of God. We learn in the church under a God ordained authority. When you enter a church you have no rights except the right to learn.

The pastors job is to protect your right to learn. His authority is only valid as he teaches accurately from the Scriptures. The purpose of the course is to train ministers of God's Word. As such you will come under a lot of pressure. Do your job as unto Him. He wants us to be complete perfect for the task. Thoroughly furnished means fully fitted out for the campaign.

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

The Christian life requires commitment. Ninety percent of believers never know what they are supposed to do, which is a tragedy.

The word "study" is in the aorist active imperative showing that it is a command to study God's Word. Paul states that we should be totally committed to this action in every stage of your life. We are to be approved or tested and found satisfactory.

We should not be like a cracked Greek pot glued together with wax which when the heat comes on falls into pieces. As a pastor you will have to teach people who really do not want to know. There will be rewards in the form of crowns, with different crowns for different acts.

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

Remember that your job is to preach the word as a herald of the King. You must say what the King wants you to say and you need to know what you have to say before you say it. If the herald does not proclaim what the King requires the King may call him back. If you are preaching God's word you will get more discipline than others but you can also receive more blessing. We are to teach the Word of God and not give a devotional.

We are to be patient and to teach until the end. The pastorals 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus are the manuals for pastoral work. We should therefore know them intimately.

## LECTURE 2

The group when Noah was preaching was so involved with the details of life that they didn't listen to the gospel. Most of the people we come into contact with will be of this type. We are told to redeem or buy up the time. Every day is a day that you will not have again. Check what you are doing hour by hour for a week and analyse. Try and find two hours each day. Be sure that the legitimate things do not keep you from the best things.

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

In verse 14 Paul is using humour telling believers to get active. See that you walk carefully and not as unbelievers redeeming the time. In verse 17 we are told to be wise understanding what the will of God is for us. It is for us to mature. God's hand is with a prepared believer in a prepared work. We are to speak in songs, is this Elton John or the Apostle Paul?

It should be noted in verse 20 that it is the Father to whom we give thanks in the name of the Son. All prayer should be addressed to the Father. Peter tells us we are of the Royal Family of God as well as ambassadors. As ambassadors we should know correct protocol.

### PRAYER

1. In this topic we will look at communication with God. We may know the provision of God but we must communicate with Him in order to obtain this provision.
2. Communication
  - (a) Prayer is the believer's means of communicating with God.
  - (b) The Bible is God's way of communicating with man.
3. Promises Involving Prayer
  - (a) Matthew 21:22 We should ask believing.
  - (b) Matthew 18:19 The power of corporate prayer.
  - (c) Psalm 116:1, 2 God is always available to hear our prayer.
  - (d) Isaiah 65:24 God will answer while we are yet praying.
  - (e) Matthew 7:7 We are commanded to pray.
  - (f) John 14:13-14 We can ask for anything in His name.
  - (g) Philippians 4:6 The prayer should be with thanksgiving.
  - (h) I Thessalonians 5:17 We should pray without ceasing.
  - (i) Hebrews 4:16 We can come boldly to the throne of Grace.
4. Prayer - Divided into 4 Segments
  - (a) Confession of sins (1 John 1:9)
  - (b) Thanksgiving (I Thessalonians 5:18)
  - (c) Intercession for others. (Ephesians 6:18)
  - (d) Petitions for one's own needs (Hebrews 4:16)
5. Power of Prayer
  - (a) Individual - Elijah and the burnt offering. (I Kings 18:36-39)
  - (b) Corporate - the release of Peter from prison. (Acts 12:1-18)
6. One Prayer that could not be Answered The prayer of our Lord on the Cross. (Psalms 22:1-18)
7. To Whom are Prayers Addressed?
  - (a) Directed to the Father
  - (b) In the name of the Son - (Hebrews 7:25)
  - (c) In the power of the Spirit-(Romans 8:26-7)The Son (Jesus) and Spirit are interceding for us.
8. Prayers can be Divided into Petition and Desire
  - (a) Petition - What you ask God for. (eg. a new car)
  - (b) Desire - The desire behind the petition. (eg. happiness because you have a new car).
9. Four Possible Combinations

- (a) Petition answered - Desire not answered. (Psalm 106:15 - The quails of the Exodus generation. (1 Samuel 8:5) - A King to reign over Israel.
  - (b) Petition not answered - Desire answered. (Genesis 18:23) The preservation of Sodom. (2 Corinthians 12:7) - Removal of the thorn in Paul's side.
  - (c) Petition answered - Desire answered (I Kings 18:36-37) -Elijah requests fire for the offering. (Luke 23:42) -The penitent thief's prayer. Type (c) represents the perfect prayer.
  - (d) Petition not answered -Desire not answered. Type (d) unanswered prayer has 9 main reasons which are shown in paragraph 10.
10. Reasons for Unanswered Prayer
- (a) Lack of belief. (Matthew 21:22)
  - (b) Selfishness (James 4:3)
  - (c) Unconfessed sin (Psalm 66:18)
  - (d) Lack of compassion (Proverbs 21:13)
  - (e) Lack of peace at home. (Psalm 133:3)
  - (f) Pride and self righteousness (Job 35:12-13)
  - (g) Lack of filling of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18)
  - (h) Lack of obedience (1 John 3:22)
  - (i) Not in the Divine will (1 John 5:14)
- Most of the reasons for unanswered prayer is some form of sin in the life which can be solved by confession of known sins as per paragraph 4 (a) under the concept of 1 John 1:9
11. Intercessory Prayer
- (a) This is one of the four factors in a prayer which are: -
    - (i) Confession of sins.
    - (ii) Thanksgiving
    - (iii) Intercession
    - (iv) Own needs.
  - (b) The power of intercessory prayer is taught in (I Kings 18:42-46) the principle being found in (James 5:16-18)
  - (c) The power of prevailing prayer is shown in (Acts 12)
  - (d) The prayer for the unbeliever (Romans 10:1)
  - (e) Prayer for an unknown believer (Colossians 1:3-11)
  - (f) Prayer for the known believer (Ephesians 1:15-23)
  - (g) The True Lord's Prayer (John 17)

## **AMBASSADORSHIP**

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

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

Colossians and Ephesians were written at the same time. In Colossians 4 we are to continue in prayer and redeem the time. Prayer is not an optional extra. Get used to living in union with Christ. Talk to the Father during the day. He is your companion all the time. The Spirit is in you, the Son has fellowship with you and the Father is adjacent to you. Pray for others, pray for yourself that you may have ministry opportunities.

In verse 6 we should have our words flavoured with salt God's Word. Work at living in God's Word. If you are alive God has a purpose for your life. When you have finished your work God will take you home. The best place to be is on the altar of service. You can relax and ask the Lord what he wants you to do today.

### LECTURE 3

Enticement and lust is a difficult topic and is not often mentioned. People get into sex problems often because there is no straight talking on the subject from the Word of God. God is not a killjoy and wants to ruin people's fun. The sexual relationship with the right person, in the right time and way is important. God has had a policy since man was created and if you act in accordance with that you can have great fulfilment. You will know sexual pleasure that the unbeliever cannot know. A good book on this subject is "Intended for pleasure by Ed and Gail Wheat".

Four areas regarding lust:-

[a] Sexual lust becomes a problem because of its direction towards the wrong object. We were made to be sexually fulfilled by the opposite sex. We should respect those whom we date as the possible future partner of someone else. We need to know people spiritually and mentally and not physically. A few have the gift of celibacy but it is rare. An example of this would be the 144,000 witnesses of Revelation 7.

[b] Power lust where one desires to have power over others. In the church this is seen where prominent members of a congregation tell the pastor what to preach.

[c] Approbation lust is where the person wants recognition and will compromise the truth if necessary to keep popular with a group.

[d] Money lust which is best expressed by some of the churches in the U.S.A. The combination of these lusts is a demonstration of pride which invariably is accompanied by envy, jealousy and the like.

The pastor has the responsibility to protect his flock and if he is doing a good job will not only have fellow workers but emissaries from Satan. He has to pick the difference. The pastor has to be hard but fair. We all have weaknesses in our lives, all of us having an Old Sin Nature [OSN] which we inherited from Adam. It is likely that your friends will be people with the same trends in the O.S.N. The way we are affected by pride therefore depends on the trait of the O.S.N. This means that there are certain places where as a Christian you should not go because it is your area of weakness, others however may not be affected by it..

### OLD SIN NATURE

1. The OLD SIN NATURE is the source of spiritual death, we are born with it. (Ephesians 2:1, Romans 5:1 2)
2. The OLD SIN NATURE is perpetuated in the human race by physical birth. (Psalm 51:5, 1 Timothy 2:1 3, 14)
3. The believer continues to have an OLD SIN NATURE after salvation. (I John 1:8, I Corinthians 3:1)
4. The believer under the control of the OLD SIN NATURE is designated carnal. (Romans 7:14, 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
5. The OLD SIN NATURE frustrates true production of the Christian life ie. divine good. (Romans 7:15)
- 6, Nomenclature for the OLD SIN NATURE:
  - (a) Flesh Galatians 5:1 6
  - (b) Old Man Ephesians 4:22, Colossians 3:9
  - (c) Carnal Romans 7:14
  - (d) Sin Romans 5:12
  - (e) Heart Jeremiah 17:9
  - (f) Member Colossians 3:5
7. The OLD SIN NATURE has essence. (Romans 6:6)
  - (a) Area of weakness - sins Hebrews 1 2:1
  - (b) Area of strength - human good Isaiah 64:6
  - (c) Lust patterns - asceticism, lasciviousness Romans 7:7

8. The solution to the OLD SIN NATURE involves divine judgment.  
Sin - Judged at the cross  
Salvation - Sin is judged  
Christian Walk - Confession  
Heaven - Judgment seat of Christ
9. The OLD SIN NATURE is not found in Philippians 3:21, 1 Thessalonians 5:23) the resurrection body of the believer. (I Corinthians 15:56,

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

According to the passage from James lust is in the mind and it conceives and gives birth to sin and ends in death. Ask the Lord to help protect you from that evil. Do not court seduction. When we sin we like to look round and blame. We are tempted from our OSN , it is our fault. We must learn to take our responsibility for our own sin. You are a sinner, that is why Christ died for you.

We may have a demon assigned to us but we also have an angel. We are our worst problem. Satan does not cause the sin in 99% of cases. You have to be almost as great as the apostle Paul to have Satan tempt you. The Holy Spirit is in you so demons cannot possess you. The Bible says nothing about believers being demon possessed. They can however influence you but this can be countered by knowledge of doctrine. James and Proverbs are matching pairs.

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

Here Solomon advises his son to refrain from bad company and sin. It also shows peer pressure 3000 years ago. It is hard for very young Christians to stay out of being influenced by peer pressure".

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

No pastor should ever privately counsel a female. The older women should minister to the younger women. In the above passage the strange woman is a woman not for you. In the ministry you will have opportunity to sin in this area much more than before you were a minister. In verse 8 you are told to remove away far from her. Enticement is to be led away from the path on which you should be walking.

#### **LECTURE 4.**

It is important to not only learn about God's Word but the knowledge should change your life giving you working knowledge or *epignosis*.

Paul talks about wisdom or *sophia*. Sometimes God has to hit us over the head to bring us to Him.

The Word of God is firstly for wisdom if you will listen to it.

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

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

Fourthly you are to protect the naive from those who will spitefully use them, wolves.

Fifthly that you might give wise counsel not that we are the problem solver but that we take them to the Word of God where the Holy Spirit is a problem solver. We do not save anyone the Holy Spirit convicts them and regenerates.

Sixthly you will be able to understand dark sayings and interpret problems. The same Spirit which taught Peter and Paul is in you. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We should not get casual or chummy with God.

We have the best teacher in the universe, the Holy Spirit. I.Q. is not a factor in understanding the Scriptures from a doctrinal viewpoint. Expect suffering and grief during the course which is hard and will require self discipline. Grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ. We should prepare for disaster now as when it comes it will not be disaster but an opportunity. The sign of a revival is not everyone going out to the front but everyone getting into the Word of God.

### **HOLY SPIRIT AS TEACHER**

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

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

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

## **LECTURE 5**

### **The Character of God**

This is the starting point of all theology. It is important to understand the holiness of God. Nowadays many are casual with God. We should however have reverence and humility before a Holy and Absolute God. People often pray to God the Father in a less than reverent attitude than we go to our earthly bosses. Knowledge of God must have an impact on your life.

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

In verse 5 we see that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. The light will shine on your evil and will demand a response from you in regard to your sin. If we claim to walk with God and walk in sin we are liars and hypocrites.

If the pastor is a live pastor he will either change the church in which there is unconfessed sin or the church will reject him. As a minister you should be close to God, in fellowship with Him so that messages you give are direct from God. You can be blunt provided you are truthful.

## **GOD: CHARACTER OF GOD**

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

a) SOVEREIGNTY

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

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

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

b) RIGHTEOUSNESS

The Father (John 17:25)

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

The Spirit The Holy Spirit

c) JUSTICE

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

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

The Spirit (Nehemiah 9:20)

d) LOVE

The Father (John 3:16)

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

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

e) ETERNAL LIFE

The Father (John 5:26)

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

The Spirit (Isaiah 48:16)

f) ALL-KNOWING

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

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

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

g) EVERYWHERE

The Father (2 Chronicles 2:6)

The Son (Matthew 28:20, cf Ephesians 1:23)

The Spirit (Psalm 139:7)

h) ALL-POWERFUL

The Father (Mark 14:36, cf 1 Peter 1:5)

The Son (Hebrews 1:3, cf Matthew 24:30, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 3:21)

The Spirit (Romans 15:19)

i) UNCHANGEABLE

The Father (Hebrews 6:17, Psalm 33:11)

The Son (Hebrews 13:8)

The Spirit (John 14:16)

j) TRUTH

The Father (John 7:28, John 17:3)

The Son (1 John 5:20, cf John 1:14, 14:6, Revelation 19:11)

The Spirit (1 John 5:6, cf John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13)

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

As God is sovereign anything that occurs to you as a Christian has been allowed by God as Scripture never tells that God is unfair. Everything God does he does through his total character.

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

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

BTB - The Names of God, The Trinity

## NAMES OF GOD

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

## TRINITY

1. The Trinity is defined as one God subsisting in three modes of existence. (2 Samuel 23:1-3, Isaiah 48:16, Isaiah 63:7-10, Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:33, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 Peter 1:2)
2. Affirmed in the Old Testament by the use of the plural pronoun 'US' for God in (Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7). Also the use of the plural Hebrew word ELOHIM (Deuteronomy 6:4) and the Tetragrammaton JHWH or JEHOVAH, referring to a single member of the Godhead.
3. Each member of the Trinity has identical essence but is a separate person as illustrated by light. (i John 1:5)
  - (a) Father - Actinic - not seen, not felt.
  - (b) Son - Luminiferous - both seen and felt.
  - (c) Spirit - Calorific - not seen but felt.
4. When the Bible refers to God as One it always refers to essence or uniqueness. (Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9)
5. When the Bible distinguishes between members of the Godhead, it refers to the activity or function of a specific person. viz. Father, Son or Holy Spirit. (i Peter 1:2, 3)
6. The Bible assigns to each Person in the Godhead a different function in salvation.
  - (a) Father - planned salvation (Isaiah 14:27, John 4:34, 5:1 7, 12:44, 1 Corinthians 8:6a, Ephesians 3:11)
  - (b) Son - executed salvation (John 4:34, 5:17, Hebrews 1 0:7)
  - (c) Spirit - reveals salvation (John 16:8-1 1)
7. Each person in the Trinity performs a different function in the Plan of God.
  - (a) Stage 1 - salvation - Jesus Christ (Romans 5:6-8)
  - (b) Stage 2 - believer in time - Holy Spirit (John 16:13, John 16, 14, 1 Corinthians 2:10)
  - (c) Stage 3 - believer in eternity - Father (John 14:1, 2)
8. Jesus Christ is the only visible member of the Trinity. (John 1: 1 8, 6:46, 1 Timothy 6:16, 1 John 4:12)

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

## LECTURE 6 - THE BARRIER BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

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

This gives the reason for the barrier between God and man, the fact that man has universally failed to attain the absolute standard of the glory of God. The glory of God is shown by the character of God which is all light.

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

In this passage Jesus brought Nicodemus face to face with the sin barrier. We start with the solution to the sin barrier.

## THE BARRIER BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

### INTRODUCTION

- (1) Divine Essence:
  - (a) God is sovereign, absolute righteousness, justice, love, eternal life, all powerful, all knowing everywhere, unchangeable and truth.
  - (b) God is one in essence but three in personality: 'God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three personalities have the same essence.
  - (c) God the Father is the planner of man's salvation; God the Son is the executor of the plan of salvation, and God the Holy Spirit is the revealer of this plan.
- (2) God's Divine Plan:
  - (a) A conference was held in eternity past between God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Divine Planning) whereby it was made possible for man to have fellowship with God.
  - (b) God's foreknowledge recognised a barrier would exist in time and that all people would be behind this barrier. (Romans 3:23)
  - (c) Sin is a failure to measure up to God's perfect righteousness, a failure to possess "The perfect righteousness". Man cannot remove this barrier. God's Righteousness and Justice must be satisfied before His love can come to man.
  - (d) God the Father is the author of a plan whereby He decided to treat the human race on the basis of Grace (all the Father does for us). Grace is receiving a gift. It is undeserved and unmerited, and contrary to all human concepts.
  - (e) God the Son removed the barrier by His death on the cross. We receive Him as our personal Saviour, and perfect righteousness is credited to us. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

### AN EXPLANATION OF THE BARRIER AND ITS REMOVAL

3. Problem of Sin:

- (a) Sin exists in three categories: imputed sin, (all sinned when Adam sinned) inherent sin (the sinful nature) personal sin (sins committed).
  - (b) Man is a sinner because Adam sinned and passed down the sin nature to the human race. The penalty of sin is spiritual death (Romans 5:12, 6:23) Every member of the human race is a sinner as far as God is concerned. (Romans 3:23)
  - (c) In John 8:31-32 Jesus Christ addressed the Jews who believed on Him and told them to go on in truth and use what He provided. Truth sets us free from the Mosaic Law to serve the Lord and operate in grace.
  - (d) The unbelieving, religious Jews (v 33) said they were Abraham's seed and not in bondage. They were actually in bondage to the Roman Empire, their religious leaders, and the Mosaic Law. He told them about the bondage of sin.
  - (e) They are all born in the slave market of sin, for no member of the human race can free himself or other members of the human race. Jesus Christ became true humanity to liberate the human race. He was born outside the slave market of sin by the virgin birth as the God-Man. He paid the price for freedom of the human race - this is redemption.
4. Solution to the Problem of Sin: Redemption and Atonement:
- (a) *The "son abides in the house forever"* (John 8:35), for Jesus Christ is "the son". He is eternal life and holy and when man believes on Him man is free and enters into union with Jesus Christ. Christianity is a relationship to Jesus Christ, not a religion.
  - (b) The purchase price of our redemption is His blood (I Peter 1: 18,19, Ephesians 1:7, Revelation 1:5, Hebrews 9:11-14, Galatians 3:13) , representing His death. Jesus Christ bore the sins of the whole world (past, present and future) on the cross.
  - (c) God is absolute righteousness and justice; the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23, Colossians 2:14). Jesus Christ cancelled the "I.O.U." the human race owed God. The human race owes God perfect righteousness.
  - (d) God is perfect righteousness and we cannot pay perfect righteousness. Jesus Christ died on the cross, paying the penalty of our sins. This is expiation (Romans 5:8)
  - (e) The doctrines of Redemption and Expiation are found in Psalm 22:1-6. God the Father and Holy Spirit left the Son because He was bearing our sins on the cross. (Matthew 27:46)
5. The Problem of Physical Birth (John 3) and its Solution: Regeneration: (John 3:1-15)
- (a) Nicodemus (v 1) was a Pharisee, a "do-gooder". He was a very religious man, attending church three times a day and praying seven times a day. He was sincere and was a product of "salvation by works".
  - (b) He was also a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night because he was too busy during the day doing "good". (v 2)
  - (c) He called Jesus Rabbi or "Doctor". He admitted more than most Pharisees for he said they knew Jesus came from God, for no one could keep doing the miracles He did except God was with Him. (v 2)
  - (d) Jesus interrupted, knowing his problem. "Except a man be born again". Nicodemus needed to be born again. (v 3)
  - (e) Why is the new birth necessary? Man is born in this world with a soul (ability to understand and categorise human phenomena), a conscience (standard by which we judge right or wrong), and an old sin nature (the source of all personal sins). The human spirit is inactivated. We are born physically alive and capable of having fellowship with members of the human race, but we are spiritually dead and cannot have fellowship with God (Ephesians 2:1). We need to be born again.
  - (f) Nicodemus' response (v 4). He cannot think in terms of spiritual things for he has no human spirit. He asked if he could be born again physically.
  - (g) The new birth is a spiritual birth (v 5), so Jesus Christ uses spiritual language, - water.
    - (i) The context determines the meaning of "water" (1) Salvation - (Isaiah 55: 1, Revelation 22:17)
    - (2) God the Holy Spirit - (John 7:37-39) (3) God's Word - (1 Peter 1:23, Ephesians 5:26, James 1-18)
    - (ii) Here "water" is used symbolically for God's Word. The new birth is a spiritual birth. The Kingdom of God is the kingdom of eternal relationship with God.
  - (h) Contrast of two births (v 6). "That which is born of the flesh is flesh (physical birth). That which is born of the Spirit is spirit (spiritual birth)." Nicodemus should not be surprised (v 7). He needed to be born again.
  - (i) The illustration (v 8) the wind. It can be heard but not seen. The new birth is not visible. Nicodemus still does not understand (v 9).

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

God has an absolute standard. We fall short of that standard. The good news for man however is that there is an answer but there is no other way.

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

There is a great gulf between God and man which is only bridged by the cross. The slave in the ancient world had to pay a large amount of money to allow himself to be free. He would lodge monies in the pagan temple and his master would pick it up from there allowing the slave to go free.

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

## REDEMPTION

1. DEFINITION: The purchase of a slave from the slave market of sin and the act of setting him free.
2. The principle of redemption is found in (John 8:31-36).
3. Christ paid the ransom for sin on the cross. In other words, He purchased our redemption. (Psa 34:22; Gal 3:13; 1 Tim 2:6; 1 Peter 1:18,19).
4. Redemption is a doctrine which the believer can apply in times of pressure and catastrophe (Job 19:25,26), thereby finding both blessing and happiness.
5. Redemption results in adoption (Gal 4:4-6).
6. Redemption provides the basis for the believer's eternal inheritance (Heb 9:15).

7. The blood of Christ is the ransom money or the purchase price of redemption (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; 1 Peter 1:13,19; 1 John 1:7).
8. Redemption includes forgiveness of sin (Heb 9:22).
9. Redemption provides the basis of justification and immediate cleansing at salvation (Rom 3:24).
10. Redemption is the basis of our cleansing from sin during our Christian walk. (Lev - 6:1-6; 1 John 1:7,9).

### **JUSTIFICATION**

1. DEFINITION: - Justification means "vindication", therefore it is the judicial act of God whereby he imputes His righteousness to the new believer at the point of salvation, thereby justifying him. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
2. Salvation justification occurs at the moment of faith in Christ. (Romans 3:28, 5: 1, Galatians 3:24)
3. Salvation justification is based on the principle of grace. (Romans 3:24, Titus 3:7)
4. Therefore salvation justification does not occur through the Mosaic Law. (Romans 3:20, 28, Galatians 2:1 6)
5. Salvation justification is the imputation of divine righteousness to the one believing in Christ. (Genesis 15:6, Romans 3:22, 4:4, 5, 16, 8:30-32)
6. The work of justification was accomplished by Christ on the cross. (Romans 5:8, 9)
7. Because the work for our justification was accomplished on the cross, Christ was resurrected to relate justification to victory. (Romans 4:25)
8. Post salvation or Christian life justification is the production of maturity. (James 2:21-25)

### **IMPUTATION**

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

### **PROPITIATION**

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

## RECONCILIATION

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

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

## POSITIONAL SANCTIFICATION

1. There are three forms of sanctification:
  - Stage 1 Salvation - union with the person of Christ - positional sanctification.
  - Stage 2 Christian way of life - filling of the Holy Spirit - spirituality.
  - Stage 3 Resurrection body - In Heaven - Ultimate sanctification.
2. Means of positional sanctification - baptism of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)
3. Positional sanctification applies to the carnal and spiritual believer. (1 Corinthians 1:2, 1 Corinthians 1:30)
4. Positional sanctification protects the believer from divine judgment. (Romans 8:1)
5. Positional sanctification qualifies the believer to live with God forever. To live with God forever you must have three things.
  - (a) God's life - eternal life.
  - (b) God's righteousness - absolute righteousness.
  - (e) God's sinlessness - total holiness.
6. Positional sanctification explains both predestination and election. (Ephesians 1:3-6)
7. Positional sanctification produces a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
8. Positional sanctification guarantees eternal security for every believer. (Romans 8:38, 39)
9. Positional sanctification exists in two categories:
  - (a) Retroactive (Romans 6) - Identified with Christ's death.
  - (b) Current (Colossians 3:1) - Identified with Christ's new life.
10. Some implications of current positional truth:
  - (a) Everything we have in current positional truth we share what Christ has.
    1. Eternal life (1 John 5:11, 12)
    2. Righteousness (Romans 4:6)
    3. Election (Ephesians 1:4)
    4. Destiny (Ephesians 1:5)

5. Sonship (2 Timothy 2:1)
  6. Heirship (Romans 8:16, 17)
  7. Sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:2)
  8. Kingdom (2 Peter 1 :1 1) Royal Priesthood. (i Peter 2:9)
  9. Priesthood (Hebrews 10:10-14))
11. Characteristics of positional sanctification:
- (a) Never an experience or emotion.
  - (b) Not progressive, cannot be improved in time or eternity.
  - (c) Not related to human merit or human good.
  - (d) It is eternal in nature, cannot be changed or removed by God, Angels or Man.
  - (e) Known only by the Word of God.
  - (f) Obtained in total at the point of Salvation.

The Spirit will lead us into all truth. We should be enthusiastic about it.

## LECTURE 7 - CHRISTIAN GROWTH

As you began, go on. You began in faith, go on in faith.

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

As we grow we should become more Christ like

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

God wants his children to grow up and mature to do whatever He has for them to do. In verse 12 the word "perfecting" means completing so that they might minister to the benefit of the body of Christ. The Spirit will assist you to grow up and show what you are meant to do with your life.

It is important that they grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ so that they can detect false doctrine when it infiltrates the church. The Word of God should be systematically taught to God's people. It is the Spirit which will bind a church together and unify them in stability in doctrine and love for the Lord Jesus Christ. You feed on the Word of God and this will bring about a team spirit within the church that nothing else can manufacture. Many churches try to create a spirit using human techniques but this is false.

We as believers should be full of knowledge "*epignosis*" which is working or full knowledge rather than "*gnosis*" or academic knowledge. As a result we have a changed life.

*Ephesians 1:15 - 23 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*

Maturity is also classified as more grace. You have been saved by grace, you grow or mature in grace or more grace. As we mature we build up a structure in the soul.

We are also told to redeem the time and set up a defence or command post in your soul. We must be prepared to follow the Lord into battle. We must be sanctified.

Jeremiah 17:8 *For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

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

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

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

Faith - Rest - Faith is believing God's Word. Rest is resting in the promises and doctrines of God. A person is what he thinks

## PROMISES OF GOD

1. FROM GOD'S VIEWPOINT - When a person promises you something the promise is only as strong as the character of the person making the promise. The character of God is perfect therefore His promises are totally reliable. Whilst all the characteristics can be applied to the promises of God, several characteristics are particularly important.
  - [a] Unchangeable- A promise in the Bible is the same for us in the 20th Century as it was to Paul.
  - [b] All-knowing - God knows all our problems so there is always a promise or doctrine to cater for our difficulties.
  - [c] Love - God will provide for His children.
  - [d] Truth- All the promises are totally true.
2. FROM MAN'S VIEWPOINT
  - (a) We must know the promises.
  - (b) We must believe the promises.
  - (c) We must want to trust in God.
3. HOW MANY PROMISES ARE THERE?  
About 7,000 that deal with the Christian on earth.
4. TYPICAL PROMISES FOR VARIOUS STAGES IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
  - (a) Stage 1 - Salvation (John 3:16; Acts 16:31)
  - (b) Stage 2 - Christian on earth. (1 John 1 :9; Rom 8:28; 1 Peter 5:7)
  - (c) Stage 3 - Believers in Heaven. (1 Peter 1:3-5; Rev 21:4)
5. FOR THE CHRISTIAN ON EARTH - HOW DO WE MAKE THEM WORK?
  - (a) We must be a believer in Jesus Christ.
  - (b) Take every promise to mean what it says.
  - (c) Confess all your known sins using the promise in (1 John 1:9)
  - (d) If a promise says to do something, do it (ie. pray, believe, confess etc.)
  - (e) Wait for answers, the Lord will answer in His time.
  - (f) Keep a promise notebook, learn the promises.
6. GENERAL SCRIPTURE ON THE PROMISES OF GOD. (Heb 3:7-4:11)
  - (a) The geographical areas in which the Exodus generation found themselves can represent stages in the Christian life.
    - (i) Egypt - unbelief.
    - (ii) Red Sea crossing - salvation by faith (ie. leaving Egypt)
    - (iii) Wilderness - the carnal and immature Christian life claiming only some promises and failing regularly.
    - (iv) Jordan crossing - full realisation of God's favour by faith.
    - (v) Promised land - the mature Christian resting in the promises and doctrines of God and only failing infrequently.

- (b) The author of Hebrews in (Chapter 3:7.19) exhorts the Jews at Jerusalem and us not to fall into the same traps as the Exodus generation in unbelief.
- (c) Questions And Answers on Hebrews (Chapter 4) refers to the Christian on earth.  
 Verse 1: What happens if we fail to claim a promise? - We lack peace of mind.  
 Verse 2: What characteristic of God does this verse highlight? - Unchangeable. How are the promises made active? - By being mixed with faith.  
 Verse 3: Which came first, man or the promises of God? - The promises, God is all-knowing.  
 Verse 4: Why did God rest? - Because He had provided all things necessary for man.  
 Verses 5 & 6: Will any succeed in this area? - Yes, some will.  
 Verse 7: Are the promises still available today? - Yes. What must we do? - Accept God's provision. What must we not do? - Harden our hearts.  
 Verse 8: Jesus in some translations is, in fact, Joshua.  
 Verse 9: To whom are the promises available? - Believers only.  
 Verse 10: What choice have we as a Christian? - Human works or God's works and provision.  
 Verse 11: What is the great trap? - Unbelief. We should actively pursue the promises of God.

## 7. MAJOR PROMISES

Learn to claim these when:

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

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

## MENTAL ATTITUDE

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

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

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

Fill your mind with truth. In many areas such as videos and the media we are surrounded by an increasingly aggressive portrayal of paganism and human viewpoint with those holding a divine viewpoint being ridiculed. Most of the pagan temples in the ancient world were based on sex. We should grow to be more like him.

## **LECTURE 8 - HINDRANCE TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH**

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

This indicates that there are things that can stop the Christian advancing in his walk with the Lord. This is due to [a] sin in your life or [b] lack of doctrine, carnality or immaturity as shown in Hebrews 3:14- 4:16

If you do not mix the promises of God with faith you are ineffective as a Christian and will fail to grow. The example given is the children of Israel in the Wilderness where the Lord took all but two of those that left Egypt and did not allow them to go into the promised land.

In verse 13 of chapter 4 God knows us through and through. We therefore have to apply His commands by applying the Word of God to our situation. We should trust him in every detail of our lives.

The problem is sin in their lives after they are saved as shown in 1 John 1:5-2:2

If the Christian does not believe he has a sin problem they have a problem with lies and they deceive themselves. If however we confess "*homolegeo*" say the same thing, we agree with God in His verdict on our life he will forgive not only the named sin but any other sin that we are unaware of in our life. We should keep short accounts with God. Unconfessed sin in your life puts you on the shelf.

### **CONFESSION OF SIN**

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

## **LECTURE 9 - SPIRITUALITY AND CARNALITY.**

When a person is out of fellowship with God a person is classified as carnal. This relates to the state of mind and soul of a person who is out of fellowship with God.

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

Spirituality and carnality are mutually exclusive, you are either spiritual or carnal you cannot be partially one and the other, ie. partially spiritual. Whether you are carnal or spiritual depends on whether you confess your sin or not. If you do things in contravention of God's word you do not advance in the Christian life.

The Christian out of fellowship cannot enjoy his old paganism, nor can he enjoy his new Christian life. As a result they are truly miserable. Many churches are not nice places to be as the people are refusing to deal with sin and are as a result obnoxious. Exhort your people to spirituality. However there is nothing as wonderful as a Christian in fellowship. A person who is constantly carnal can end his life under the sin unto death.

Romans 6:8 - 13 - *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to*

*be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

We must not let our temptations overcome us.

We must reckon ourselves dead to sin. Fill your mind with the Word of God.

### **CARNALITY**

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

We must be aware of areas of temptation which cause us problems and avoid them as well as recognising our areas of strength and be on our guard.

### **SPIRITUALITY**

1. One must distinguish between the salvation ministry and the post salvation ministry of the Holy Spirit.
  - (a) Salvation - The Spirit is:-
    - (1) The agent of regeneration. (Titus 3:5)
    - (2) Seals all believers. (Ephesians 1 : 1 3)
    - (3) Indwells believers. (Romans 8:9)
    - (4) Baptises believers into Christ. (Ephesians 4:5)
    - (5) Disseminates spiritual gifts. (1 Corinthians 1 2:11)
  - (b) Post Salvation Being filled with the Spirit through confession of sins. (1 John 1:9)
2. Spirituality and Carnality are mutually exclusive and therefore absolutes. (Of light and dark)
3. In the spiritual life IMITATION is the great issue.
  - (a) Controlled by the Holy Spirit - IMITATES GOD (Ephesians 5: 1 1 John 3:9)
  - (b) Controlled by the sinful nature - IMITATES UNBELIEVERS (1 Corinthians 3:3)
4. The spiritual believer accomplishes three general objectives in the Christian life:
  - (a) Imitates God. (Ephesians 5:1, 1 John 3:9)
  - (b) To glorify Christ. (John 7:39, John 1 6:14)
  - (c) Fulfils the law. (Romans 8:2-4, Romans 13:8)
5. The spiritual believer is not subject to the mosaic law as he is under a higher law, the law of the Spirit of life. (Romans 8:2-4, Romans 1 0:4, Galatians 4:18, 5:22, 23)
6. Apart from his own free will or ignorance the spiritual believer cannot sin. (1 John 3:9)
7. Production which is rewarded in the Christian way of life depends on the filling of the Spirit:
  - Controlled by the Spirit - (Gold, silver, precious stones)
  - Controlled by the sinful nature - (Hay, wood, stubble)
8. Results of the filling of the Spirit
 

Prayer	Imitation of Christ
Witnessing	Perception of the Word
Worship	Guidance
Assurance	Helping other believers.
9. Emotion and ecstasies is not a character of being filled with the Spirit in the Church Age.
10. By baptism of the Holy Spirit we have what Jesus is:
  - Have His life
  - Share His election
  - Share His sonship
  - Share His sanctification
  - Share His reign

Share His destiny  
Share His righteousness  
Share His heirship  
Share His priesthood

We now examine the case of Lot who was saved but never got his act together. As a result he lost most of his family and his wealth. You are not long in the ministry before you see people who through habitual carnality lose almost everything and have troublesome lives. These people consistently fail to deal with sins in their lives and live carnally.

Spirituality occurs when the Holy Spirit is in control of your life working through you in the light of His Word. If we work under the control of the Holy Spirit we are producing gold, silver and precious stones. Every day you have is valuable, every day you have is one you will never have again.

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

Carnal believers cannot be distinguished from unbelievers - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

The Corinthians were having trouble because of sin in the church. They were not growing but were remaining babies because of habitual carnality. There were factions within the church which indicates immaturity. He has fed them with milk because they are not able to tackle mature concepts in the Christian life.

Paul also shows that we are no longer under condemnation as believers but are under justification - Romans 8:1-8

The Christian is either earning rewards of eternal or temporal value as seen in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 The results of one's life as a Christian is related to rewards and the sin unto death.

#### **REWARDS AND SALVATION**

1. Rewards and Salvation are carefully separated in the Scriptures. Salvation is a free gift from God, rewards are for meritorious service in the power of the Spirit.
2. Salvation - a free gift to the lost. (Ephesians 2:8, 9, Romans 6:23, John 4:10) an everlasting possession. (John 3:36, John 5:24, John 6:47)
3. Rewards - to the saved who faithfully work for the Lord. (1 Corinthians 9:24, 25, Revelation 22:12)- distributed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10)
4. Rewards as Crowns:-
  - (a) The incorruptible crown - for faithfulness in exercising self control. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
  - (b) The crown of glory - for faithfulness in suffering. (1 Peter 5:4)
  - (c) The crown of life - for faithfulness under trial. (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10)
  - (d) The crown of righteousness - for faithful testimony. (2 Timothy 4:8)
  - (e) The crown of rejoicing - for faithful service. (1 Thessalonians 2:19, 20, Philippians 4:1)

#### **SIN UNTO DEATH**

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

If God's only purpose was to save us He would take us to be with Him at salvation. The purpose however is to bring glory and honour to God here. The eternal security of the believer is not threatened as shown in 1 Corinthians 3:15, however the believer can miss out on eternal rewards. The foundation is laid on salvation and the believer builds on it either in the form of eternal or temporal materials.

As a believer your performance is evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ as outlined above whilst the unbeliever is condemned at the Great White Throne in Revelation 20:11-15.

If you as a minister decide to go along with carnality you have nothing to give your congregation.

## LECTURE 10 - PRAYER AND SUFFERING

Prayer is the means of progress in the Christian life. We can thank Him for His character and for the work of Christ on the Cross, for our position in Christ, forgiveness of sins and many other areas. Prayer is the essence of fellowship. We should ask the Lord for guidance as to what we should pray for.

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

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

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

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

Do you want to be a servant of God?,

Do you want to serve Him in the ministry?. The course will sort this out. You must be prepared to walk through the fire.

If you do not walk in the Spirit you will not survive the course.

The famous passage from Ephesians 6:11-19 talks about the whole armour of God and the spiritual warfare that the Christian is engaged in. The character of God and the barrier are also of great importance as far as this area is concerned. We can stand firm, secure in the knowledge of our position in Christ Jesus. The shield of faith is resting in the promises and doctrines of God's Word. You must have good footwear to have stability and balance. The gospel of peace is the footwear. The offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. Do not try and use the sword until you have learnt the sword.

### THE SWORD

1. THE SWORD of the Spirit is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).
2. The Word of God is sharper than any two edged Sword (Hebrews 4:12).
3. THE SWORD is the most frequently mentioned weapon in the Bible being used many times as analogies to judgment of war or for the Word of God.
4. TYPES OF SWORD - Two types of sword are mentioned in the New Testament.
  - (a) The Machaira - this was the sword with which the Romans conquered the known world. It was short, approximately half a metre (18 inches) in length. It had a point and two sharp edges and is the sword of (Hebrews 4:12). Compared to other swords in the ancient world it was by far the most effective weapon of its day. (John 18:1 0-1 1, Romans 8:35, Ephesians 6:1 7, Hebrews 4:1 2).
  - (b) The Rhomphaia - occurring mainly in the book of the Revelation the rhomphaia was a large broad sword some 1 to 1 1/2 metres in length. Invented by the Thracians it had one cutting edge and was used for hacking blows (Luke 2:35, Revelation 1:16; 19:1 5, 21).
  - (c) Other swords in use at the time of the New Testament but not mentioned in the Scripture:
    - (i) The Dolon - a hidden sword encased in a riding whip or cane. The blade of the dolon was generally brittle and often used to break when used in combat.

- (ii) The Akinakes - the ceremonial sword of the Persians with high ornamentation, often jewel encrusted not unlike the ceremonial British swords of state. As a weapon of war it was totally useless.
  - (iii) The Xziphos - the rapier shaped sword had a sharp point and could only be used for thrusting. It was rounded and as with the Dolon was brittle and tended to break in battle. Eventually- this sword like the aninakes became of sign of rank.
5. In the Old Testament CHEREB is used on over four hundred occasions for a sword commencing in Genesis 3:24 with the sword wielded by the cherubim through to Zechariah 13:7.

### THE CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

General Scripture Ephesians 6:11-17. This passage relates to the armour which the Roman soldier wore and analogises its use into the spiritual realm.

### USE OF THE ARMOUR

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

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

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

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

#### PRINCIPLES:

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

#### SPIRITUAL ANALOGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

### THE ENEMY

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

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

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

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

### **BE PREPARED** (Ephesians 6:13)

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

Since the resurrection ascension and session of Jesus Christ the attack of Satan has moved from the line of Christ to the individual believer (see topics 6 and 173). Our dependence on the whole armour is imperative yet many believers reject part or all of the armour. There are many casualties as a consequence.

We are again exhorted to put on the whole armour of God.

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

*"Stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth*

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

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

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

*"and having on the breastplate of righteousness".*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PRINCIPLE** The Christian soldier's shield is walking actively in the promises and principles set out in the Word of God. If we do not use our faith we can become spiritual casualties. Using the shield of faith we can claim -the 7,000 promises for the Christian walk including Isaiah 41 :1 0; 1 Corinthians 1 0: 1 3; 1 John 4:4.

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

*"And take the Helmet of salvation.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **ETERNAL SECURITY**

### **1. POSITIONAL APPROACH (Romans 8:38-39)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

If we suffer we produce divine good under blessing conditions. If we (a believer) deny Christ he is going to deny us rewards. If we believe not (renounce) HE abideth FAITHFUL. You cannot do anything that can change God. Jesus cannot deny himself.

The believer indwells Christ and Christ indwells the believer. Christ is still there, Christ cannot deny himself. Jesus is everywhere at the right hand of the Father, he is the God-Man, inside you, he is God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **SUFFERING**

### **1. General Causes for Suffering**

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

### **2. Categories of Suffering**

- (a) Time
    - (i) UNBELIEVER (two categories)
      - (1) Violation of divine laws.
      - (2) Self induced suffering.
    - (ii) BELIEVER (see section 4)
  - (b) Eternity
    - (i) BELIEVER - no more suffering (Revelation 21:4)
    - (ii) UNBELIEVER - lake of fire. (Revelation 20:12-15)
3. Premise of Suffering
- (a) All suffering is designed for blessing in the Christian walk. (1 Peter 1: 7, 8, 4:14)
  - (b) Exception is discipline. (Hebrews 12:6)
  - (c) Exception is removed by confession. (1 Corinthians 11 :31, 1 John 1-9)
  - (d) Suffering follows the principle of grace. (Romans 8:28, 1 Thessalonians 5:18)
4. Purpose of Christian Suffering
- (a) To receive discipline for carnality or backsliding. (Psalm 38)
  - (b) To glorify God. (job 1:8-12, Luke 15:20, 21)
  - (c) To illustrate doctrine (Book of Hosea)
  - (d) To learn obedience (Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 5:8)
  - (e) To keep down pride (2 Corinthians 1 2:7-1 0)
  - (f) To develop faith (1 Peter 1:7, 8)
  - (g) To witness for Christ (2 Corinthians 1 3:4)
  - (h) To demonstrate the power of God. (2 Corinthians 1 1:24-33, 2 Corinthians 12:7-1 0)
  - (i) To manifest the fruit of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 4:8-1 1)
  - (j) To help others who suffer. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)
  - (k) From indirect action - because other believers get out of fellowship. (Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 1 2:1 2, 1 3, 1 2:26, 1 Samuel 21, 1 Chronicles 21)

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

## LECTURE 11 - WITNESSING.

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

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

We are built on the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles and not major 20 th century evangelists. Walk in the Spirit, walk in the examples of the apostles.

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

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

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

This gives the three motivations for witnessing, a burden for the lost, well prepared and not ashamed. In order to give the gospel you should know the barrier and its solution in Christ. How can we improve our evangelism. We should grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-20 - Paul was abused and subject to a lot of pressure. Witnessing was not easy, he was beaten and imprisoned at Philippi and fled for his life. He comes to Thessalonika and starts witnessing again. Witnessing is not necessarily going to result in revival in your area and it may be of cost to you. You are entering into combat when you witness.

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

We are not greedy nor compromise the gospel by making it a money making exercise. Money should never be an issue in the gospel. There should never be an offering taken up during an evangelistic campaign. Paul set an example by his tent making business where until a church was established he would fully support himself by his own industry. He appears to have been some 10 years into his missionary work before he gave up his tent making business on a permanent basis. The church which is well established should pay its pastor, however as a pastor of a new church you should be willing to work your passage in the early part of your ministry. Paul says in verse 6 that he did not seek the glory of man but of God.

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

## WITNESSING

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

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

The natural man to understand the gospel, needs the Holy Spirit to interpret it. (1 Corinthians 2:14)
  - (b) The Bible is the weapon of witnessing. (1 Corinthians 1 5:3, 4)
  - (e) Every believer is a witness as an extension of his ambassadorship. Our ability to witness depends on:
    - (i) Proper emphasis on the Gospel
    - (ii) Correct and accurate information from the Bible (Heb 4:12; Eph 6:1 7; 1 Cor 1: 1 8)

- (iii) Filling of the Spirit (Acts 1 :8)
  - (iv) Assurance of Eternal Security (Romans 8:38, 39)
5. Analogy to witnessing is found in Matthew 4:19 "fishers of men".
    - (a) Fishermen must have a desire to fish.
    - (b) Fishermen must be equipped to fish.
    - (c) Fishermen go where the fish are.
    - (d) Fishermen use the right bait.
    - (e) Fishermen keep out of sight.
    - (f) Fishermen must be patient.
    - (g) Fishermen will be rewarded.
  - 6 . Biblical Pattern of Witnessing. (i Thessalonians 2:1-1 2)
    - (a) Effective contact 6 (c) - visit not in vain. (v.1 )
    - [b] The gospel must be given even under opposition. (v.2)
    - (c) The gospel must never be compromised or watered down - (v.3)
      - (i) No deceit - not in error 4 (c) (ii)
      - (ii) No uncleanness - filling of the Spirit. 4 (c) (iii)
      - (iii) No guile - not watered down. 4 (c) (i)
    - (d) The believer in whom the gospel is deposited is tested by God and should not be for the praise of man. 5 (e) (g) (v.4)
    - (e) Flattery should never be part of the gospel. Raising of funds should never be a part of a mass evangelisation as it is anti grace. (v.5-6)
    - (f) Whilst the gospel should not be given to get praise from men it should be given in love without cost (v9) see Romans 1: 1 4-1 6. (v.7-9)
    - (g) The gospel must be followed up (v 10) by the witness of the life - section 2 (b) as well as teaching (v 11) basic Christianity such as promises, confession of sin, doctrines and the Christian walk, so that the new believer can become spiritually self reliant and mature to enable them to witness to others. (v.10-12)

## EVANGELISM

1. Knowledge of salvation is absolutely necessary to evangelise. This includes redemption, justification, reconciliation, positional truth etc.
2. Witnessing for Christ is the responsibility of every believer (Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 4:5) There is one thing between God and man - Jesus Christ and his work on the cross.
3. Effectiveness and clarity of witnessing depends upon the believers' understanding of the word of God including the Last Judgment judged according to their works. (Hebrews 6:10, 1 Corinthians 3:15, Revelation 20:1 2-1 5)
4. Witnessing is impossible except through the power of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:1 3)
5. The pertinent portion of the Scripture is the witnessing weapon of evangelism. Only those portions dealing with the Gospel are pertinent to unbelievers. (Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17, 1 Corinthians 1:18)
6. Power of witnessing includes the attitude of the believer (Romans 1- 14-16) You are the debtor (v14) You are ready (v 15) You are not ashamed (v 16)
7. Two areas of witnessing. Testimony of the lips. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) Testimony of the life (2 Corinthians 3:3)
8. There are rewards for witnessing (1 Corinthians 3:11-1 5) gold, silver, precious stones.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare your application dossier to

**Evangelical Bible College of W.A. P.O.Box 1059, Midland W.A 6056** as follows:-

[1] Full name, address, date of birth.

[2] A recent photograph of yourself.

[3] Two character references.

[4] Your testimony.

[5] Academic record including all trade, professional or other qualifications

[6] A summary of your Christian work since you were saved.

[7] Explain your purpose in taking this course.

[8] Answer the questions below.

### **Questions**

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

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

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

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

Question 5 - Why do believers suffer?