

**GOD**

**WILL REQUIRE AND DEMAND**

**THAT HIS  
“TRUE CHURCH”**

**WALK  
IN  
DIVINE  
ORDER**

## INTRODUCTION

### TO THE SERIES OF STUDIES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

This is a time of transition! The scientists tell us that a new age is being born. Apart from the spiritual or Biblical predictions, the scientists tell us that by the year 2000 AD, life expectancy will possibly be 100 years, the world population will be double the present, the cities of the United States will be doubled in number, scientific information will be multiplied by nine times, the work week will be shortened to 20 hours for some, and so forth. If this is true, think of the future within the grasp of the little babies in our nursery classes!

The human race has the technology to create a better existence for all mankind, or to end our civilization with its machines of destruction. What will be our future, great advances or tribulation? Or, is the answer both?

Our Lord gives us in **Luke 21:24-36** a prophecy of this time at the close of this age, just before His return to establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. Christ said there would be *“upon the earth distress of nations ... men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world ... and then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”* He warned lest *“that day come on you suddenly as a snare: for so shall it come upon all them that dwell upon the face of all the earth. But watch ye at every season, making supplication, that ye may prevail to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”* **Matthew 24:29-36** also gives us the prediction by Christ of the great world tribulation just before His return as King of Kings.

Unparalleled blessings, as well as perils, are just ahead of this generation. This is indeed a time of transition! It is most important that we be ready for what is coming. The future must not come as a “snare” to us, as Christ said it would come to the whole world. When the floods come it is necessary to have an ark of safety, just as Noah had. Is God providing a vehicle for us so that we may safely pass through the coming “troubled” waters? Yes, the Lord is restoring the New Testament church in these modern times. The greatest source of protection a believer can have is to be sheltered within the folds of a local church, built by the New Testament pattern. Long after organizations built on the wisdom of man have perished, New Testament churches will survive to be God’s instruments in the earth. *“And the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* (**Matthew 16:18**)

It is significant that Peter prophesied that Jesus Christ would return again to this earth in the times of *“restoration of all things.”* (**Acts 3:20-21**) Everywhere among God’s people there is a new emphasis on the restoration of the Church to its Apostolic purity and power. Let us go back again to the blueprints of the church that are given to us in the New Testament. In these twenty seven lessons we will study the plan and pattern for the New Testament church. Let us study and pray. May God “restore” our local church until it will be an impregnable fortress when the Satanic assaults and persecutions again come against it.

The lessons that follow are basic to the structure of the local church. The great subject of the “worship in the local church services” will be covered in another series of lessons. May the Holy Spirit illuminate teacher and pupil alike as they study one of the most important subjects of this hour, “The New Testament Church.”

A local church that is built by the scriptural blueprints is a sturdy and strong sanctuary for you and your family. Let us *“contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.”* (**Jude 3**)

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**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION I**

**MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

## LESSON ONE

### New Testament Church

### Section I - Members of the Body

#### MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST AND MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Scripture readings: **1 Corinthians 12:12-28**  
**Acts 2:36-47; 4:32-35; 5:12-14; 11:19-26**

Read these passages carefully as they relate to the formation of the earliest local church memberships.

#### I. THE MEANING OF THE WORD "CHURCH"

The New Testament Greek word for church "ecclesia" is used some one hundred and nine times, and over ninety times this word refers to the local church. Many local churches are named in the Scriptures, such as the seven churches of Asia, the church at the house of Priscilla and Aquila, the church at Rome, the church at Corinth, and so forth. Thus the local church patterns and teaching occupy most of the New Testament references to the church.

Ecumenicalism may bring all denominations together. When Babylon is thus solidified, it will be clear to every believer the unscriptural basis of anything except the local church of the New Testament.

#### II. THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST

**Colossians 1:18, 24; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:21-23.**

- A. From all of the above given references, we see that church membership in the New Testament church is a spiritual status and a spiritual relationship. Membership today has usually degenerated to a matter of human volition, like joining a club, rather than a matter of God "setting us in the Body" or "adding to the church."
- B. From the above references, we see also that the early churches recognised what God had done in the new believers in setting them into the Body of Christ. They recognised a "fellowship" and a "bond" which the Holy Spirit has already created. From the above references, we see also that the new believers or members recognised and acknowledged that:
  - 1. Jesus Christ was their Saviour and Lord.
  - 2. That He had set them in a local church body and given them a function (or ministry) there.
  - 3. That they were to be submissive to the authority of that local church.
  - 4. That they were to love, to give, to witness, to fellowship, to maintain unity, and to function in the Body of Christ.

#### III. SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR RECEIVING MEMBERS INTO THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LOCAL NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

From time to time in the services, the question will be asked, "Who would like to be received into the Fellowship as a member of the Body?" Then the applicants will be asked to meet with one or more of the elders, who will counsel with them and examine their spiritual status.

Questions for the applicant:

1. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour?
2. Do you believe that God has set you in this local church?
3. Do you know what the church teaches?
4. Will you abide under the authority and discipline over this local church?

It would be good for the applicants to study “This We Believe and Do Know,” found in “TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH,” by John Robert Stevens, since this outline covers the teachings of the Bible that they might later stumble over. Anything they do not understand can be explained to them by the elders.

The elders who question the applicants should get their personal views of the local church and its leaders to determine their loyalty and dedication to what God is doing in their midst. The elders should search for any reason why the applicants could not be received in as a member of the Body, and then give their recommendation on the applicants to the whole Body on the Sunday morning that the candidates are to be received into the fellowship. The applicants should then be called forward and the elders can lay hands on them and bless them.

At the time that the new members are recognised in the Body, the spiritual status and spiritual relationship of the new member to the rest of the Body of Christ should be recognised. The new members should see their dedication and submission to Christ, to the rest of the members, and to the ministers and elders over them in the Lord. The members should see their responsibility and care for the new members.

The Good Shepherd knows His sheep (**John 10:14**) and calls them by name (**v.3**). If this is true, then any pastor, or elder, must have a way of knowing everyone who is a member of his flock. How can a church function properly (oversight of the elders, the discipline and fellowship of believers, and so forth) without an up-to-date list of the members? For example, church discipline can never work (**1 Corinthians 5**) if there is no way of knowing if the offender is one of the church or not. The procedure is simple and clear - **Acts 2:38-41**. They believed, were baptized, and were added to the church.

God keeps a record of His own (**Luke 10:20, Philippians 4:3; Revelation 20:15**) - we must not object to simple and scriptural records being kept of the members of the local church.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Is the Body of Christ different from the church?
- What does local church membership mean to you?
- What should receiving a believer into the local fellowship entail?
- What responsibility should rest upon a member of a local church?
- What responsibility should rest upon the elders and ministers for the member of the local church?
- What responsibility should rest upon the members of the fellowship for one another?

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION II**

**GIFT MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH**

## LESSON TWO

### New Testament Church

### Section II - Gift Ministries of the Church

#### APOSTLES

Scripture readings: **1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2:19-20**

#### I. HOW MANY APOSTLES?

How many apostles did Jesus call before He was crucified, and what was their purpose? (**Matthew 10:1-8; 19:28-30; Luke 9:1-6; Acts 1:12-26, esp. v.22.**)

#### II. CHRIST GAVE APOSTLES TO THE CHURCH

Christ gave apostles to the church after His ascension, (**Ephesians 4:11-16**). “*He gave some apostles.*” “Gave” is in the Greek aorist tense, which denotes that action has been applied in the past, reaches to the present, and extends on into the future. Thus Jesus gave apostles, and is giving apostles, and will continue to give apostles through the church age.

#### III. MEN NAMED AS APOSTLES

Men named as apostles in addition to the original twelve are:

- A. Barnabas and Paul. (**Acts 14:4,14; 1 Corinthians 9:5-6; Romans 1:1**)
- B. Adronicus and Junia. (**Romans 16:7**)
- C. Titus. (**2 Corinthians 8:23**) - “messenger” mistranslation. Greek reads “apostle.”
- D. Epaphroditus. (**Philippians 2:25**) - should read “apostle,” not “messenger.”
- E. Paul, Silvanus, Timothy wrote 1 Thessalonians (**1 Thessalonians 1:1**), and Paul implies all three, with Silas (who also was a prophet) were all apostles. (**1 Thessalonians 2:6**)
- F. The four brothers of the Lord, (**1 Corinthians 9:5; 15:5-8; Galatians 1:19**). It is possible all four were apostles.
- G. Apollos and Sosthenes. (**1 Corinthians 4:9, see v.6**), and note Sosthenes as a co-writer of the epistle. (**1 Corinthians 1:1**)
- H. “*All the apostles,*” (**1 Corinthians 15:5-7**) Obviously there is a group known as the twelve, and another larger group known as “*all the apostles.*”

Some of these mentioned may be vaguely identified; but it is obvious that there are many apostles besides the original twelve.

#### IV. RECOGNITION OF AN APOSTLE

The calling, the qualifications, the function, and the authority.

- A. See his commission, authority, power, then fruit. (**1 Corinthians 9:1-2**)
- B. Signs of an apostle; “*all endurance,*” signs and wonders, and mighty works. (**2 Corinthians 12:11-12**)
- C. Apostleship is based on a specific commission by the Lord Jesus Christ with a specific authority and spiritual endowments to accomplish the ministry.
- D. In the New Testament both punitive and corrective discipline was initiated by the Apostles. (**Acts 5; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 Timothy 1:18-20**)

## V. THE NEW TESTAMENT APOSTLES

The New Testament apostles had definite assigned “areas” of ministry and responsibility.

A. Paul sent to the Gentiles. (**Romans 11:13**)

B. Peter sent to the Jews. (**Galatians 2:7-10**)

Do you think that is still true of apostle’s today?

## VI. FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH

In what ways do you think the apostle and prophet are the foundation of the church? **Ephesians 2:19-22** and **3:1-12**, (esp. vs. 5-6) show that the mystery of Christ was hid for ages, but was revealed unto the apostles and prophets in the Spirit. The mystery was that the Gentiles would be included in the Body of Christ.

## VII. APOSTLE’S MINISTRY TODAY

Could the restoration be waiting for the apostle’s ministry to be established in the church again?

## LESSON THREE

New Testament Church

Section II - Gift Ministries of the Church

### PROPHETS

Scripture readings: **Ephesians 2:19-20; 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28.**

#### I. CHRIST GAVE PROPHETS TO THE CHURCH

Christ gave prophets to the church after his ascension. (**Ephesians 4:11**)

#### II. WHAT IS A PROPHET?

A prophet is a man sent by God, anointed and appointed to be His mouth piece and to speak His Word (**Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Kings 17:13**).

Not only does the prophet have the Word from God to speak, he is endowed with revelation, prediction, the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and with a sign ministry (signs and wonders and miracles.) Thus, a combination of all nine of the gifts, plus the divinely designated authority of the office of a prophet, distinguishes the prophet from those in the Body of Christ who may prophesy without being prophets.

#### III. PROPHETS NAMED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Here the prophets' ministry is seen in multiples as a necessary ministry and office in the local church, although they may be sent to other local churches or move with the apostles in an apostolic company. (**1 Corinthians 14:29-33**)
- B. Prophets sent from Jerusalem. (**Acts 11:27**)
- C. Prophets and teachers at church in Antioch. (**Acts 13:1**)
- D. Judas and Silas were prophets. (**Acts 15:32**)
- E. Prophets at Tyre. (**Acts 21:4**)
- F. Was not Ananias a prophet? (**Acts 22:12-15**)
- G. Agabus was a prophet. (**Acts 21:10-13**)

#### IV. PROPHETS MINISTER IN MULTIPLES

According to **1 Corinthians 14:29-32**, the prophets are to minister in multiples - two or three. Why is this? To prevent error and to prevent self-importance. Note also the powerful prevailing influence of prophets in numbers. (**1 Samuel 19:10-24**)

#### V. PROPHETS OF THE NEW AND OLD TESTAMENTS

Is there a basic difference between the prophet of the Old Testament and the prophet of the New Testament? In both the Old and New Testament is not the prophet a spiritual ministry and office?

#### VI. BEWARE OF THE FALSE MINISTRIES

- A. False apostles. (**2 Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 2:2**)
- B. False prophets. (**Matthew 24:11, 24; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1-3**)
- C. False teachers. (**2 Peter 2:1**)

## VII. HOW TO TELL THE TRUE PROPHET FROM THE FALSE?

**John 7:11-18; Matthew 7:15-23.**

## VIII. THE PLACE OF THE END-TIME PROPHET

- A. The earth shall know that the sword-word of the Lord in the mouth of the prophet and it shall slay many. (**Hosea 6:5**) Note that **Hosea 6:1-3** relates to the end-time outpouring of the Spirit and the return of the Lord.
- B. “Where there is no prophecy, the people perish ...” - vision and prophecy is the same Hebrew word. (**Proverbs 29:18**)
- C. The secret of coming things is hid with the prophets and apostles. (**Amos 3:7-8**)
- D. Touch not His anointed and do His prophets no harm. (**1 Chronicles 16:20-22**)
- E. Receive a prophet and receive a prophet’s reward. (**Matthew 10:40-42**)

## LESSON FOUR

New Testament Church

Section II - Gift Ministries of the Church

### EVANGELISTS

Scripture readings: **Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5.**

#### I. WHAT IS AN EVANGELIST?

The word “evangelist” means “one who announces good tidings.” The word is used three times in the New Testament. (**Ephesians 4:11; Acts 21:8; 2 Timothy 4:5**) The verb “to evangelize” is used frequently in the New Testament and it means “to declare good tidings,” or “to preach the gospel.”

From our study of Philip, the evangelist, we see that the ministry of an evangelist seems to be similar in kind to the ministry of a prophet, except that the evangelist’s ministry is more specialized and less comprehensive than the prophet’s. There were great signs that followed Philip’s ministry. (**Acts 8:5-7**)

#### II. WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

Timothy is given the exhortation by Paul to do the work of an evangelist, (**2 Timothy 4:1-5**). Timothy was evidently an apostle, for Paul, Silvanus and Timothy wrote 1 Thessalonians (**1 Thessalonians 1:1**) Paul implies that all three with Silas (who was also a prophet) were all apostles (**1 Thessalonians 2:6**). So it would seem that Timothy was an apostle and an evangelist. Study **1 and 2 Timothy** and note that the instructions given to Timothy involves both the ministry of the apostle and the evangelist.

#### III. NEW TESTAMENT EVANGELISTS

The finest study of the New Testament evangelist is found in the references to Philip. (**Acts 8:4-40; 21:8**)

- A. Philip preached Christ. Let the world see whom we believe, not what we believe. (**Acts 8:4-5**)
- B. The early persecutions resulted in the scattering of spirit-filled witnesses. The early church witnessed of Christ so effectively that by the death of Apostle John (about 100 AD) one twentieth of the Roman empire were Christians. By 300 AD such a large portion of the Roman world were Christians that Christianity became the state religion. The world has never seen such effective evangelism since the Apostolic Age. (**Acts 8:1-4**) Is there not an urgent need for evangelists in the New Testament sense, that will exalt Christ, cast out devils, heal the sick, and perform great miracles of faith?
- C. Philip went to the Samaritans, ignoring the racial prejudice between Jews and Samaritans. (**Acts 8:5**)
- D. Note the effectiveness of Philip’s evangelism. (**Acts 8:6-13**)
- E. Note that Philip did not minister the Holy Spirit to the converted Samaritans, but the apostles Peter and John came down from Jerusalem and laid their hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit. Does this mean that Philip’s ministry as an evangelist was restricted to this one area of ministry? (**Acts 8:14-25**)
- F. The next episode recorded of the ministry of Philip is in **Acts 8:26-40**. Note how Philip was directed by the angel of the Lord. Was this the Lord’s way of taking the

gospel to Ethiopia, a country that is still predominantly Christian? Doesn't there seem to be an urgency to baptize new converts in water? (**Acts 8:35-39**)

- G. Philip was caught away by the Spirit and set down in another part of the country. Does this excite you? (**Acts 8:39**)
- H. An insight into the spiritual status of Philip's family is given in **Acts 21:8-10**. Lord, give us evangelists!

## LESSON FIVE

New Testament Church

Section II - Gift Ministries of the Church

### PASTORS AND TEACHERS

Scripture readings: **John 21; Ephesians 4:11-16; Ezekiel 34**

#### I. WHAT IS A PASTOR?

Pastor is the Latin word for shepherd. The Hebrew word for shepherd means “one who feeds the sheep” (Rash). The Greek word for shepherd means “one who feeds or guides sheep” (Poimen). The ministry of a pastor is to feed, to guide and to guard the flock of God.

In the Old Testament the term “shepherd” was applied to the Jewish priests by the later prophets, especially Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah. The prophets said that the Lord would gather the scattered of God’s flock and give them shepherds after his own heart that would feed them. (**Jeremiah 3:14-15; Zechariah 10:1-3**)

#### II. A RARE MINISTRY

How often is the ministry of a pastor or shepherd mentioned in the New Testament? The references to the “pastors” ministry is very rare, although there are several references to our Lord Jesus Christ as our shepherd or pastor (see **Isaiah 40:1; John 10:1-18; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:25**).

The reference to the pastor’s ministry is found principally in **Ephesians 4:11**.

#### III. PASTORAL FUNCTIONS

Would it seem that pastoral functions were often performed by the elders of the local congregation? (**Acts 20:17-38; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Peter 5:2**)

#### IV. TRAVELLING MINISTRY

Is it possible that the pastor was frequently a travelling ministry as were the apostles, prophets, and evangelists? A review of the ministry of the Apostle Paul in the book of Acts shows that he was in an area from possibly a few weeks to a few years, as the Lord directed. May we assume that all of the gift ministries were so divinely directed?

#### V. WHAT IS THE MINISTRY OF A TEACHER?

The gift ministry of the teacher includes much more than the expositions and explanations of the scriptures in a Bible class. This ministry functions as do the other gift ministries, by the direct guidance and revelation of the Lord, and under great authority. This is the way Jesus taught (**Matthew 7:28-29**). The Lord Jesus said we would be all taught of the Lord (**John 6:45, cf. Isaiah 54:13, Jeremiah 31:34**). He also said that the Holy Spirit would come to us as a guide to lead us into all the truth, (**John 16:12-15**). The Apostle John said that this anointing of the Holy Spirit would teach us all things, (**1 John 2:27**).

We must remember, however, that while God teaches us by the Holy Spirit directly, He also teaches us through the gift ministry of the teacher. We may learn through the Holy Spirit by experiences and by revelation, but this usually takes longer. When God gives the gift ministry of the teacher, we move rapidly toward the faith that was once delivered to the saints. Is this not the reason why Satan brings false teachers as well as false prophets forth in the last days?

#### VI. NEW TESTAMENT MENTIONS A TEACHER MINISTRY

How often is the ministry of a teacher mentioned in the New Testament? (**1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 11:27; 13:1; 15:35; 18:11; 28:31; 1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11 ...**)

#### VII. UNITED MINISTRIES

Note the way that Paul unites the ministry of the pastor and teacher in **Ephesians 4:11**. Are they one ministry or two?

- A. Discuss what the ministry of a pastor-teacher embraces.
- B. Discuss our duties to pastors and teachers. (**Galatians 6:6; Hebrews 13:7-9, 17**)

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION III**

**MINISTRIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

## LESSON SIX

### New Testament Church

### Section III - Ministries in the Local Church

#### BISHOPS AND ELDERS

Scripture readings: **Acts 20:17-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:4-11; 1 Peter 5:1-10**

#### I. WHAT IS AN ELDER OR PRESBYTER?

No account is given of the origin of eldership in the New Testament. Christian elders are mentioned for the first time in **Acts 11:30** at Jerusalem. In the Old Testament “elder” is a term of extensive use and is applied to many and various offices. If you take the time to study the Old Testament elder, you will learn much of what the New Testament elder represents. “Elder” means literally “one of the older men.” The Greek word for elder is “presbuteros,” which is the origin of our saxon word “priest.” The creation of the office of elder is transmitted to the church from ancient times. The office of both deacon and apostle is created in the New Testament church to fulfil new and special functions. The term elder and presbyter are synonymous, since presbyter is derived from presbuteros, the Greek word for “elder.”

Both Peter and John call themselves elders. (**1 Peter 5:1; 2 John 1:1; 3 John 1:1**) Every ministry of **Ephesians 4:11** is actually an elder. Every local church also has local elders who are in permanent residence (**Acts 20:17; 14:23; 1 Peter 5:1; James 5:14**). It is also apparent that every church had a number of elders, as in Jerusalem (**Acts 11:30; 15:4, 6, 23; 21:18**) and in Ephesus (**Acts 20:17, 28**) and Philippi, (**Philippians 1:1**), and so forth. To this body of men is given the task of overseeing and feeding the flock.

#### II. WHAT IS A BISHOP?

Bishop means “overseer.”

#### III. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BISHOP AND AN ELDER?

Nothing. In **Acts 20:17, 28** and **Titus 1:5, 7** we see that “elder” and “bishop” are terms applied to the same persons. **1 Peter 5:1-2** instructs the elders to be the bishops or overseers of the flock. In **Philippians 1:1** we see three classes in the local church; overseers, deacons and all the saints. So we see two local orders of ministry: overseers or elders and deacons.

#### IV. WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELDER?

There are some twenty-five qualifications laid down in the New Testament concerning an elder. Read them carefully. (**1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9**)

#### V. HOW ARE ELDERS ORDAINED?

Elders were always appointed and ordained by the foundational ministries (apostles and prophets) and other elders, if any; (**Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:28**). Fasting and prayer is usually connected with the ordaining and commissioning of elders and ministries, (**Acts 14:23; 13:2-3**). The congregation never elects elders. The pastor or apostle may receive a revelation that a brother is to be made an elder. He may encourage the brother to fast and pray over it, and bring the matter before the congregation to also

pray and fast over it. Then, after a little period of time, if no disqualification is found in him, the pastor or apostle, and the elders, will lay hands on him and ordain him as an elder. We may anticipate prophetic confirmation to his eldership; (**1 Timothy 1:18-19**). Hands should not be laid upon any man suddenly; (**1 Timothy 5:22**) (note that this passage speaks of ordaining elders). From instructions given to elders in the epistles, it is evident that the elders are created by the apostolic authority, or the authority of any of the **Ephesians 4:11** ministries over that local church, and are answerable to those ministries.

#### VI. WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN ELDER?

**1 Peter 5:14; Acts 20:17, 28, 35, 38.**

Tremendous responsibility is laid on the local elders to oversee and feed the flock. These are the spiritual ministries over the spiritual life of the congregation. A special “crown of glory” is the reward provided for them when the Chief Shepherd shall appear. Note in **Acts 20:28** the elder’s first concern must be for themselves, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock ...*”

#### VII. HOW LONG DO ELDERS HOLD THEIR OFFICE?

This ministry is never indicated as being for a specified term. Apparently, the office is for life, or as long as the elder is walking with God in that ministry and taking the oversight of the flock. The ministry of the elder is a delegated ministry and is always answerable to the foundational ministries; (**Ephesians 2:20**).

#### VIII. WHAT ARE THE OBLIGATIONS OF A CONGREGATION TO THE ELDERS?

**1 Timothy 5:1, 17-22; Hebrews 13:7, 17.**

He is to be counted “worthy of double honour.” He is not to be rebuked, but rather entreated as a father. And no accusation is to be received against him unless there are two or three witnesses. Otherwise it must not be believed.

#### IX. HOW ARE QUESTIONS OVER DOCTRINES SETTLED IN THE LOCAL CHURCH? (**ACTS 15**)

These questions are solved by the foundational ministries and the elders of the churches meeting and the Holy Spirit giving the answers. In the main, the apostles and prophets did the speaking here; (**Acts 15:7-19, 32**). In the New Testament the apostles decided the doctrine to be taught; (**Acts 2:42; 16:4-5; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 11:1-2; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; Philippians 4:9**). This does not mean that the apostle is infallible (**Galatians 2:11-14**).

#### X. HOW ARE LOCAL CHURCHES STARTED, SET IN ORDER AND ESTABLISHED?

In the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas, we see the pattern of how local churches were started, (**Acts 14:7-23**). These local churches are directed, fed, and brought to maturity under the foundational ministries; (**Eph. 4:10-16; 2:19-22**). Lesson 38 in the “First Principles” sets forth the New Testament model in a concise and scriptural pattern. In all of this, the ministry of the elder in the local church is of supreme importance.

## LESSON SEVEN

New Testament Church

Section III - Ministries in the Local Church

### DEACONS AND DEACONESSES

Scripture readings: **Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 3:8-13; Philippians 1:1**

#### I. WHAT IS A DEACON?

The Greek word “diakonos” means literally “one who executes the commands of another.” In the New Testament it refers particularly to a ministry in the local church who cares for the poor and needy, and has charge of, and distributes the money collected for their use. As the elder oversees spiritual matters, so the deacon oversees the material and financial matters of certain ministries of the local church. The deacons serve in the temporal affairs and business of the church, (**Acts 6:1-3**).

#### II. WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS?

Read these carefully (**1 Timothy 3:8-13; Acts 6:1-6**). **1 Timothy 3:11** no doubt refers to “women”, not the wives of deacons. Thus the passage is referring to deaconesses.

#### III. HOW ARE THE DEACONS ORDAINED IN THE LOCAL CHURCH?

The only example of the setting in office of the deacon is given in **Acts 6:1-6**. The deacons here were sought out by the people, and proved during a period of probation as to their ministry and qualification (**1 Timothy 3:10**) and then they were ordained by the laying on of hands of the foundational ministries and elders, (**Acts 6:5-6**).

#### IV. “DIAKONIA”

“Diakonia,” the Greek word for “service” or “ministering” is closely related to the word “diakonos,” the word for deacon. There are some New Testament examples of “diakonia,” which shows the ministry of the deacon in action.

- A. The various ministrations in the Body of Christ are referred to in **1 Corinthians 12:5**.
- B. Reference to service within the Body of Christ is found in **Ephesians 4:12**.
- C. An outstanding example of the generosity of the early saints in ministering financial help to the poor and needy, whether they were in their local church or members of a distant church are given in **2 Corinthians 8 (esp. v. 4)** and **2 Corinthians 9:1, 10-13**.
- D. In **Acts 11:29; 12:25**, the mission of Barnabas and Saul from Antioch to carry help to the brethren of Judea in the famine is called a “diakonia.”
- E. Stephanas ministry was that of a deacon. (**1 Corinthians 16:15-16**)
- F. This reference, (**Romans 12:7**), describing the ministries in the New Testament church, no doubt refers to the deacon principally. Ministry or service, let us give ourselves to our ministry.

V. ARE THERE ANY DEACONESSES MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

**Romans 16:1-5a** mentions Phoebe the deaconess and instructs the church in the assistance to be given her. The team of Priscilla and Aquila are also mentioned in the service to the church.

VI. ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT OF A MINISTRY OF “DIAKONIA”

An example of a young man being given a ministry of “diakonia” and growing up into a great ministry is John Mark, the author of the Gospel of Mark. The following references tell a story, (**Acts 12:25; 13:1-5, 13; 15:36-40; 2 Timothy 4:11**).

VII. TWO EARLY DEACONS, STEPHEN AND PHILIP

**Acts 6, 7 and 8** tell of two early deacons, Stephen and Philip, who became the first martyr for Christ, and the first evangelist, respectively. Should not our spiritual young men be set aside as deacons and allowed to grow in their ministries?

## LESSON EIGHT

New Testament Church

Section III - Ministries in the Local Church

### OTHER MINISTRIES

Scripture readings: **Romans 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14; 1 Peter 4:10-19**

- I. THE BASIC TEACHING ON THE NEW TESTAMENT MINISTRIES AS SET FORTH IN ROMANS 12
  - A. A ministry is based on Christ's endowment and plan for the individual believer, **(Romans 12:1-6)**.
    1. You present your bodies a sacrifice to God by His mercies. **(v.1)**
    2. You receive the mind of Christ, in order that you may know God's will for your life. **(v.2)**
    3. Claim for yourself the ministry that warrants the faith that God has given you. **(v.3)**
    4. Our gifts from God and our function in the Body of Christ differ and depend upon the grace God gives us (see also **1 Corinthians 7:7**). These verses show that we enter a consecration of our bodies through His mercies, we find God's will for us through Christ's mind, and we take our place of ministry through the measure of faith Christ gives us. Thus we fill a distinct function in the Body of Christ by the grace that He gives us. Our ministry depends upon His mercies, His mind, His will, His faith, and His grace!
  - B. The seven general classifications of ministries in **Romans 12:6-8**, "*...unto each one of us was the grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*" **(Ephesians 4:7)**.
    1. Prophecy, in proportion to our faith.
    2. Service, use the gift in serving.
    3. Teaching, use the gift in teaching.
    4. Exhortation, use the gift in exhorting, that is, encouragement, personal work, soul winning, and so on.
    5. Giving, with liberality.
    6. Ruling (leading), with diligence, that is, moral earnestness.
    7. Showing mercy, with cheerfulness.
  - C. Please note the specific ministries that are included in these general classifications.
    1. Prophecy: this includes the ministry of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher, singer of Psalm, the gift of prophecy, and so on.
    2. Service: this includes ministry of deacons, deaconesses, ministry of helps, including publishing work, radio work, tape recording work, janitors, clerical work, repair and maintenance work, and so on.
    3. Teaching: this includes the ministry of elders, deacons, children's teachers, teachers of Bible classes and so on.
    4. Exhortation: this includes the ministry of personal workers, soul winners, Sunday School teachers, testifying and exhorting the services, and giving encouragement.
    5. Giving: this includes the ministry of working of miracles for miraculous release of finances, the gift of faith for giving and so on.
    6. Ruling (leading): this includes the ministry of the elders and deacons, but especially of the apostle and prophet, as well as the pastor and so on.

7. Showing mercy: this includes the ministry of the elder and deacon. The visitors of the sick, the helpers of the poor and afflicted, the ministry to the orphans and widows, healers of the sick, and so on.

Each ministry is assigned and enabled by the Lord Jesus Christ, and can not be assumed by the desire of the individual alone. We must not be ambitious in seeking a place, nor should we refuse to fill the place God gives us to serve. These seven phases of Christ's endowment of ministries in the Body of Christ are found in varying combinations according to the proportion of the grace and faith given to each ministry.

## II. WE HAVE ALREADY STUDIED THE BASIC OFFICES AND MINISTRIES IN THE BODY OF CHRIST, AS GIVEN IN EPHESIANS 4:11-16

- A. Apostles.
- B. Prophets. **Ephesians 2:19-22** states that apostles and prophets are the "foundational" ministries and others build upon their- foundation. (**1 Corinthians 3:6-10**)
- C. Evangelists
- D. Pastors and teachers.

## III. ANOTHER LISTING OF THE BASIC MINISTRIES IN I CORINTHIANS 12:27-31 CLASSIFIES THEM AS FOLLOWS:

- A. Apostles
- B. Prophets
- C. Teachers
- D. Miracles ("powers" in the literal Greek)
- E. Gifts of healings.
- F. Helps
- G. Governments ("wise counsels" in literal Greek)
- H. Diversities of tongues.

## IV. IMPORTANT INSTRUCTION ABOUT THE PATH OF LOVE

Important instructions about the path of love, which the ministries must follow, are included in each of these chapters on the ministries that are cited above. (**Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 13:13; Ephesians 4:16-32**)

## V. AFTER GOD ASSIGNS A MINISTRY TO A MAN, HE SENDS THE FIRE TO PURIFY AND TRY THAT MAN

### **1 Peter 4:10-19**

You may have a gift of the Holy Spirit without having a ministry. The believer who experiences the work of the cross in his life, and walks in his gift of the Spirit faithfully, humbly, led by the Spirit, will find his gift becoming a ministry. A ministry is a specific function of Christ in His Body, and will manifest the Fruit of the Spirit. (**Galatians 5:22-23**)

## VI. INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Intercessory prayer should be a part of every ministry, (**Ephesians 6:18**). Paul engaged in prayer constantly for the churches, (**Ephesians 1:15-16; Romans 1:9; Philippians 1:4; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2**). The Apostles also were devoted to prayer, (**Acts. 6:4**). Usually intercession is not a ministry by itself; it is the means by which all

ministries function, from Christ the Head, (**Hebrews 7:25**), to the smallest and weakest ministry.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION IV**

**ORDER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH**

## LESSON NINE

New Testament Church

Section IV - Order in the Local Church

### ORDER

Scripture readings: **The Book of Titus; 1 Corinthians 14:23-40; 1 Timothy 3:1-16; Ephesians 5:22-6:4**

Introduction:

God has a divine order for the New Testament church. In the period of the Judges, every man did “that which was right in his own sight.” Without a divine order, they existed in a state of confusion and disorder. The Church of Jesus Christ experiences this confusion and disorder when it is ignorant of God’s plan and order for it.

#### I. ORDER IN THE CHURCH

**(Titus 1:4-16; 3:9-11)**

There are always those “*whose mouths must be stopped.*” (**Titus 1:10-11**), and for this reason a strong eldership was created.

#### II. ORDER IN THE CHURCH SERVICE

This eliminates the confusion and abuse of divinely given gifts, (**1 Corinthians 14:23-40**).

#### III. ORDER IN THE FAMILIES IN THE CHURCH

**Ephesians 5:22-6:4**

In God’s order, the “head” of the woman is the man, and so forth; (**1 Corinthians 11:1-5**). When his family is in disorder, or the children unruly, the elder or deacon may face disqualification, (**1 Timothy 3:1-16**).

#### IV. ORDER IN THE INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER’S LIVE

The various instructions given in **Titus 2:1-3:8** are worthy of discussion.

#### V. ORDER EVEN WHEN PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND RESTRICTIONS AROSE

**1 Corinthians 7:8-24**, especially verse 17.

#### VI. ORDER WAS ESTABLISHED FOR THE ORDINANCES

Order was established for the ordinances, especially the Lord’s supper, (**1 Corinthians 11:23-24**).

#### VII. ORDER IN THE COLLECTION OF THE FINANCES

**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

VIII. THE LAZY AND INDOLENT WERE TERMED DISORDERLY

**2 Thessalonians 3:6-15**

IX. THE SCRIPTURES REVEAL THAT THE LAST DAYS WILL WITNESS GREAT DISORDER

There will be a great disorder throughout society, (**2 Timothy 3:1-9**).

CONCLUSION

Discuss Satan's attack on the whole structure and order for society, for the church, and for the family.

## LESSON TEN

New Testament Church

Section IV - Order in the Local Church

### AUTHORITY

Scripture readings: **Matthew 28:18-20; John 5:19-29; Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:16-20; Ephesians 1:3; John 14:12-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24.**

Introduction:

In these last days there is a problem of deception. Our Lord warned of false prophets leading many astray, and that the deception would be so great that if it were possible even the elect would be deceived, (**Matthew 24:11, 24**). There is great danger in these days to the believer who is a "law unto himself." When one exalts his own reasoning and conclusions above the guidance he receives from those whom the Lord has set over him to lead him, he places himself in a position of jeopardy. The Lord places leaders in the church and vests them with authority over the flock and makes them responsible for the flock, (**Hebrews 13:7-9, 17**). The responsibility they carry is great; (**James 3:1; Ezekiel 3; 33:6**).

Indeed the believer is exhorted to submission not only to the governing ministries, but also to one another. Inasmuch as we are incomplete ourselves - we need what Christ has placed in ministry in every member; (**1 Corinthians 15:15-16; Ephesians 5:15-21; 1 Peter 5:1-7**). Our relationship to the divinely appointed authority over us is most important.

#### I. ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH RESIDES IN CHRIST JESUS HIMSELF

**Matthew 28:18-20; John 5:19-29; Ephesians 1:20-23; Colossians 1:16-20.**

Every ministry in the Body of Christ ministers by virtue of the delegated authority and the assigned responsibility that Christ has placed on him. It was thus that the disciples ministered; (**Luke 10:17-20; 12:41-48**).

#### II. AUTHORITY OF THE APOSTLE

Christ Himself delegated authority to the first apostles; (**John 20:21-23; Matthew 16:17-19**). It is my opinion that a personal appearance of Christ and a direct commission by Christ are essential to apostleship. Paul alludes to Christ's appearance to him when defending his apostleship; (**1 Corinthians 9:1-2**). In any event, he was called (**Acts 13:2, 14:14**) and received his ministry directly from the Lord; (**Galatians 1:15-24**).

#### III. AUTHORITY OF THE PROPHET

Again this is authority delegated by Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is possibly given by direct commission of Christ, or it may be confirmed by apostles or other prophets, and so forth; (**1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 2:19-22**).

#### IV. AUTHORITY OF EVANGELIST, OF PASTOR AND TEACHER

Their authority is also delegated by Christ through the Holy Spirit, and may be confirmed or established as with the prophet.

## V. AUTHORITY OF ELDERS

In **Acts 14:21-23** their authority was delegated and imparted by the laying on of hands of the apostles. There is no instance of their being elected in the New Testament. They received their authority from the authority of the foundational ministries in that local church, or over that local church.

## VI. AUTHORITY OF THE DEACONS

In **Acts 6:2-6** the deacons were sought out by the members of the Body of Christ, who looked for certain qualifications. Then the Apostles laid hands on them and delegated authority to them to do their specific task.

## VII. AUTHORITY OF EVERY BELIEVER

Every member of the Body of Christ should have a definite and distinct ministry. To fulfil this ministry they must have imparted to them the authority, the anointing and the enablement by the Spirit to complete the task. The elders, or the foundational ministries of the church, may lay hands on each believer and minister by revelation and impart what is necessary to fulfil their ministry. The scriptures assure us of Christ's provision and promise of authority to accomplish great things by prayer and ministry; (**Ephesians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 9:8-11; John 14:12-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24**).

## VIII. AUTHORITY OF THE FATHER AND MOTHER

As we have already studied this in an earlier lesson, we mention it only in passing; (**Ephesians 6:1-3**).

## CONCLUSION:

When we learn to abide in submission to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ over us, and to the ministries He has appointed to lead us, we are like the Centurion in **Luke 7:2-10** who exercised great faith. Read this story again carefully and note how Jesus marvelled at the Centurion's faith. His faith was based on a recognition of Christ's authority. As a man of authority himself, he recognised the greater authority of Christ and was humble and submissive before it. May we be the same.

Very precious at this point is **1 Corinthians chapter 4**. In the light of this lesson, the apostolic viewpoint of stewardship, of faithfulness, of authority, and so forth. is very beautiful.

## LESSON ELEVEN

New Testament Church

Section IV - Order in the Local Church

### DISCIPLINE

Scripture readings: **1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Acts 5:1-16; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16; Matthew 18:15-22; 16:19; Romans 16:17; 2 Corinthians 2:6-11; Galatians 5:10; 1 Timothy 1:19-20; 6:3-5; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 10-11; 1 Corinthians 5; Matthew 18:15-22.**

#### I. WHAT IS CHURCH DISCIPLINE?

##### **1 Corinthians 5:1-5**

- A. It is action to be taken on a gross sin, a sin that is commonly reported or common knowledge to the church and perhaps to the outside; (**1 Corinthians 5:1**). Note: The whole church bears reproach before the world, not the individual alone. A church will be reproached, but it should not deserve its persecution; (**1 Peter 2:19-20**).
- B. The attitude of the church to be mourning, not indifference; (**1 Corinthians 5:2; Hebrews 3:12-13**). It is one thing to talk about sin, another to mourn over it.
- C. The authority of the church to discipline; (**1 Corinthians 5:3-4**).
- D. Discipline is in act of faith as well as obedience.

#### II. WHY DOES GOD COMMAND CHURCH DISCIPLINE?

##### **1 Corinthians 5:6-8**

- A. Because the whole church bears the contamination of one's sin, (**1 Corinthians 5:6**), assuming they allow it and are indifferent to it.
  - 1. Illustration of the Old Testament. Achan. (**Joshua 7**).
  - 2. Illustration of the New Testament. Jezebel. (**Revelation 2:20**).

**Galatians 5:9**, "A little leaven leaveneth the Whole lump."  
**Song of Solomon 2:15**, "Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines"  
**Ecclesiastes 10:1**, "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary, to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly, him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."
- B. Responsibility of internal purging rests upon the church; (**1 Corinthians 5:7**). Remember also at approach of Passover, the house was to be searched for leaven. In the Old Testament the cry was "Search me, O God." In the New Testament God says "Let a man examine himself," and again "prove your own selves." (**2 Corinthians 13:5**). The Holy Spirit is given as an aid to know the inner state; (**2 Corinthians 7:1; 2 Timothy 2:21; James 4:8; 1 John 3:3**). Our spiritual condition under the Old Testament was a vague thing. In the New Testament we can be certain of our spiritual condition.
- C. We must sincerely partake of Christ; (**1 Corinthians 5:8**). The picture of the Old Testament Passover is in **Exodus 12:15, 19**. It is a feast; (**1 Corinthians 11:28-31**). In brief, God wants a clean church.

### III. WHAT DOES GOD MEAN BY SEPARATION?

#### **1 Corinthians 5:9-13**

- A. It is a heart experience first, (**1 Corinthians 5:9-10**).
- B. It is not isolation from world contact, (**1 Corinthians 5:9-10**).
  - 1. We must contact sinners to win them, and must live Godly before them. There were saints even in wicked Caesar's household, (**Philippians 4:22**).
  - 2. See Jesus' prayer that we be not taken out of the world, but innocent of its sin, (**John 17:15-17**).
- C. Separation does mean avoiding the unequal yoke with the unbeliever, (**2 Corinthians 6:14**).
- D. It is an isolation from the unclean professors, (**1 Corinthians 5:11-13**).

### IV. FOR WHAT OFFENCES SHOULD A BELIEVER BE DISCIPLINED?

- A. If he/she is a fornicator, covetous, idolater, railer, drunkard or extortioner, (**1 Corinthians 5:11**).
- B. If he/she is disobedient to the Word, (**2 Thessalonians 3:14-15**).
- C. If he/she is walking disorderly, (**2 Thessalonians 3:6**).
- D. If he/she is a heretic; (**2 John 8-11; Titus 3:9-11**).
- E. If he/she causes divisions and offences contrary to doctrine, (**Romans 16:17-18**).
- F. If he/she has a form of godliness, but denies the power, (**2 Timothy 3:5**).
- G. If he/she genders questions and strifes, (**1 Timothy 6:3-5**). For an example, see **1 Timothy 1:19-20**.

Our burden should be a church of good repute and God's blessing.

### V. HOW THE OFFENDING BROTHER MAY BE RESTORED

#### **2 Corinthians 2:6-11; Matthew 18:21-22.**

### VI. NOTE:

In every instance in the New Testament, the discipline was directed by apostolic authority, and the participation of every believer in his faith and dedication was expected.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION V**

**WAYS IN WHICH THE LOCAL CHURCH CAN GROW**

## LESSON TWELVE

New Testament Church

Section V - Ways the Church Can Grow

### WAYS IN WHICH THE CHURCH CAN GROW SPIRITUALLY

Scripture readings: **2 Peter 3:17-18.**

#### I. THE BIGGEST FACTOR

- A. Consistent personal devotional life.
- B. Prayer, worship and reading the Word; (**Hebrews 2:14; 2 Timothy 3:12-17; Ephesians 6:18**).
- C. Discuss the place of individual devotions, of prayer, of the Word, or worship. Which is the most important?

#### II. CONTRIBUTE TO SERVICES

- A. Singing, singing in the Spirit; (**1 Corinthians 14:15**).
- B. Prophecy, exhortation and faith, (**1 Corinthians 14:23-26, Colossians 3:16-17**).
- C. Participate in worship, ever striving for deeper worship.

#### III. SHOWING COMPASSION AND UNDERSTANDING TO THE BODY

**1 Peter 3:8-12; Hebrews 10:24; 1 Peter 4:8.**

#### IV. FAMILY ALTAR AND FAMILY UNITY

**Colossians 3:18-25; 1 Peter 3:1-2, 7.**

#### V. ENDEAVOUR TO KEEP UNITY OF SPIRIT IN BOND OF PEACE

**Ephesians 4:1-3**

- A. Refusing to receive or give criticism or gossip.
- B. Avoid murmuring and questioning, (**Philippians 2:14-15; 2 Thessalonians 3:11; Proverbs 11:13; 17:9; 26:20; 6:16-19**)

#### VI. SUBMISSION, SUPPORT AND PRAYER

Submission, support and prayer to the Pastor, elders and deacons, (**Hebrews 13:17; 1 Corinthians 16:16; 1 Peter 5:5-6**)

#### VIII. REVERENCE IN CHURCH SERVICES

**1 Corinthians 14:33-40; Hebrews 12:28-29; Psalm 89:7.**

#### VIII. PUNCTUALITY AND REGULARITY WITH ANTICIPATION

**Hebrews 10:25; Luke 4:16.**

- A. Prayer before services is so valuable.

IX. SACRIFICIAL GIVING AND FAITHFUL TITHING

**Proverbs 3:9-10; Malachi 3:10; Deuteronomy 16:17; 1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 8:12; 8:3-4)**

X. DISCIPLINE OF HUMBLE AND MENIAL SERVICE

**Romans 12:9-1 Galatians 6:1-5, 10; John 13:14; 21:16; Matthew 10:42.**

DISCUSSION

- What suggestions have you found beneficial to spiritual growth?
- What about fellowship with brethren?
- What about sermons and lessons?
- How do these things affect you spiritually?

## LESSON THIRTEEN

New Testament Church

Section V - Ways the Church Can Grow

### WAYS IN WHICH THE CHURCH CAN GROW NUMERICALLY

Scripture readings: **Psalm 51:10-13; 126:5-6; Daniel 12:3; Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 5:1-11; 15:3-10; 8:36-39; Jude 22-23; Romans 9:1-5; 10:1-15; 11:13-14.**

Introduction:

In these marvellous days, we are all “*contending for the faith once delivered to the saints*” (**Jude 3**) and believing to see “*the restoration of all things spoken of by all the holy, prophets since the world began.*” (**Acts 3:21**). While we rejoice in these days of rapid spiritual development in the Body of Christ, we observe the high casualty rate with concern. The spiritual warfare is always with us. Satan rages against the Body because he knows his time is short. Some are lost, it is true, because God eliminates them. Some are victims of their own rebellion and withdrawal. But some, yes many, we could have kept! If we had kept all God called to this walk, the church would be packed! Let us ask ourselves, “What can I do as an individual member of this Body to add to the church?”

#### I. KNOW THE SCRIPTURES!

Know the Scriptures concerning this walk in the Spirit and be able to share your faith and explain it scripturally to others. See “To Every Man That Asketh,” by John Robert Stevens.

#### II. UNDERSTANDING

Understand what those in this walk in the Spirit must go through and then teach them and help them through their hard experiences. Don't we all go through the wilderness experience? Through a work of the cross?

#### III. HELP THE NEW ONES!

- A. Help the new ones to become grounded in this walk.
- B. Do not choke them by trying to give them too much at first.
- C. Do not expect too much of them at first, or be harsh and legalistic with them.
- D. Constantly check on the new ones, and see that they have constant encouragement, personal ministry and loving concern.

#### IV. BRING THE NEEDY

Bring the oppressed and the burdened to a ministry service. Be sure you pray about this carefully first. Who can walk in this way without a meeting with God? Personal ministry is a good way to be met by God.

#### V. MAIL PRINTED MATERIAL

Mail printed sermons and Bible studies, and perhaps prophecies to those who are hungry to go on with God.

## VI. BLESS AND PRAY OFTEN

Bless and pray often for those the Spirit reveals are to be a part of this walk.

## VII. USE THE TAPE LIBRARY

It is a good means of establishing yourself or others. A good tape can “introduce” this walk to a prepared heart.

## VIII. “*SOW BESIDE ALL WATERS*”

Plant the seed, but do not push it too fast. Give it time to grow.

## IX. YOUR FAMILY SET IN ORDER.

Your family set in order can be one of the greatest attractions in the walk in the Spirit.

## X. MANY ARE LOOKING

Many are looking to see what a walk in the Spirit is, so do not present a bad image. Do not fall apart under pressure or blow up. Do not voice discouragement. Do not talk negatively. Be positive and talk faith.

## XI. SHOW LOVE

Spot the new ones and be friendly, offer them your help. Love in word and in deed. This wins them.

## XII. PRACTICE GRACE

The Lord lets you see people’s needs so that you can help them, not judge them.

## THOUGHT

To grow and develop, each one of us needs a constant flow of love, adequate personal ministry, much teaching and encouragement, as well as an outlet for his or her developing ministry.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION VI**

**GIVING: TITHES, OFFERINGS, ALMS**

## LESSON FOURTEEN

New Testament Church

Section VI - Giving: Tithes, Offerings, Alms

### FINANCES OF THE LOCAL CHURCH -TITHES, OFFERINGS, ALMS

#### I. TITHING AS AN OLD TESTAMENT PRINCIPLE

- A. Tithing before the Law - voluntary.
  - 1. Abraham paid tithes, (**Genesis 14:18-20**).
  - 2. Jacob promises a tenth, (**Genesis 28:20-22**).
- B. Tithing under the Law of Moses, - compulsory.
  - 1. The tithe belongs to God, (**Leviticus 27:20-32**).
  - 2. Obedience to the law of tithing brings blessing on the life, (**Malachi 3:10**).
  - 3. The use of the tithes that were collected, (**Nehemiah 10:37-38**).

#### II. TITHING AS A NEW TESTAMENT PRINCIPLE

- A. Tithing - (**Hebrews 7**)
  - 1. Melchisedec, king (Jerusalem) and priest. Was he Shem? An angel? God? Christ? Yes, He was Christ, (**Hebrews 7:1**).
  - 2. Without father or mother, that is, not holding priesthood by lineage; (**Hebrews 7:2-3; Genesis 14:17-20**).
  - 3. Tithing principles operative to Christ as priest of the order of Melchisedec. Actually, our tithing has nothing to do with Levitical law of tithing, (**Hebrews 7:4-10**).
  - 4. The Levitical Priesthood was temporary and insufficient, (**Hebrews 7:11-12**).
  - 5. Christ's priesthood is an unchanging priesthood, (**Hebrews 7:13-17**).
  - 6. Christ's Priesthood is an eternal priesthood, (**Hebrews 7:18-24**).

God has set aside the old covenant and has given a new covenant and a new priesthood, (**Hebrews 8:7-13**). We tithe then under the new covenant and we tithe to the Lord Jesus Christ who is of the new priesthood after the order of Melchisedec.
- B. We pay our tithes to the priesthood after the order of Melchisedec, (**Hebrews 7:1-17**).

#### III. NEW TESTAMENT EMPHASIS AND INSTRUCTION IN GIVING

- A. Tithing under grace - willingly.
  - 1. We give ourselves to God first, then our gifts, and tithes; (**2 Corinthians 8:5, 11-12**).
  - 2. We give cheerfully; (**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**).
  - 3. We give bountifully, (**Luke 6:38**).
  - 4. When we are to give, (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**).
  - 5. The use of the tithes, (**Matthew 10:7-10**).
  - 6. The use of the offerings, (**2 Corinthians 9:7-14**).

#### IV. OFFERINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. Tithes are the tenth of our increase due to God.
- B. Offerings are our worship gifts to God.
- C. Alms are our gifts to the poor and needy.

Paul, and other ministries, took this offering for the saints to Jerusalem. It was a great collection taking over a year to collect it. Paul had spent years preaching to the

Gentiles not to be Jewish proselytes, and now they show their love to the Jewish Christians. This shows the unity and love of the New Testament. It is one of the great events of the New Testament.

**D. 2 Corinthians chapter 8.**

1. How the Macedonians gave, (v. 1-5).
2. Titus to collect now from Corinth church, (v.6).
3. Giving by the grace of God, (v.7).
4. Giving is a test of love, (v.8-9).
5. Giving is based on what you have to give, (v.10-12).
6. Giving is to be equally shared by all saints, (v.13-15).
7. Giving is to be irreproachable in its gathering and in its administration, (v.16-24).

**E. 2 Corinthians chapter 9.**

1. Advance notice so they could save and set aside to give, (v.1-5).
2. Giving to be bountiful (the law of harvest), (v.6).
3. Giving to be with the heart (brings God's special love), (v.7).
4. There is a ministry of faith and grace in giving, (v.8-10).
5. Giving contributes to worship and praise to God, (v.11-12).
6. Their giving would make Jerusalem Christians know and praise God for the Gentile Christians, (v.13-15).

**V. ALMS**

The ministry to the poor and needy. Here is how we are to give alms (not tithes) to the poor, (**Matthew 6:1-4**).

**VI DISCUSSION**

Discuss the ingathering of tithes, offerings and alms in your local church. Contrast the scriptural ways with financial methods of other churches you have known.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION VII**

**OUTREACH AND WITNESS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

## LESSON FIFTEEN

New Testament Church

Section VII - Outreach of the Church

### THE CHURCH'S OUTREACH AND WITNESS IN ACTS

#### I. THE EARLY BELIEVERS

The early believers were dedicated witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ. May the Lord renew our dedication to be faithful witnesses to Christ in our generation as we review their outreach and witness for Christ.

#### II. SUGGESTED READING.

- A. Read the whole book of Acts, using the references below as a guide to the book's emphasis on witnessing.
1. Our Lord promised the Holy Spirit to the disciples so that they could have a world wide witness to Him, (**Acts 1:8**).
  2. Peter's effective witness to Christ on the Day of Pentecost, (**Acts 2:32-42, 47**).
  3. Peter and John's powerful witness after the healing of the lame man in the temple, (**Acts 4:18-21, 29-33**).
  4. The Apostles' faithful witness of Christ through imprisonment and beating. This is an inspiring chapter, (**Acts 5:12-42**).
  5. Stephen's faithful witness, even unto death and the witness of the scattered, persecuted saints after his death, (**Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-8:4**).
  6. Philip's witness to Samaria, (**Acts 8:5-8, 25**).
  7. Philip's subsequent witness to the Ethiopian, (**Acts 8:26-40**).
  8. Paul's conversion and immediate dedication to witnessing of Christ, (**Acts 9:13-31**).
  9. Notice the emphasis on witnessing of Christ in Peter's message to Cornelius, (**Acts 10:34-48**).
  10. The Church at Antioch is established because of the faithful witness of the persecuted saints, (**Acts 11:19-26**).
  11. Paul and Barnabas' witness of Christ in the first missionary journey, (**Acts** chapters **13** and **14**. Note: **Acts 14:26-27**).
  12. Paul's second missionary journey is recorded in **Acts 15:40** through to **18:22**. Note how effective the witnessing of the Apostles and early Christians was, (**Acts 19:10, 18-20**).
  13. Paul's third missionary journey is recorded in **Acts 18:23** to **21:18**. Again, how effective was their witness, (**Acts 19:10, 18-20; 20:17-21**).
  14. Paul's imprisonments, persecutions, trials before Roman courts and so forth, with examples of bold and faithful witness to Christ by Paul are recorded in **Acts 21:18** to the end of Acts. Note: **Acts 22:14-15; 26:15-23; 28:16-31**.

## LESSON SIXTEEN

New Testament Church

Section VII - Outreach of the Church

### THE CHURCH'S OUTREACH AND WITNESS

- I. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE SEVEN DISTINCTIVE ESSENTIALS OF THIS WALK WITH GOD
  - A. Our obedience and submission to the Lordship of Christ, (**Ephesians 1:15-23**).
  - B. Our worship of Christ, (**Philippians 3:3**).
  - C. Our anointed inter-member ministry in the Body of Christ, (this is by means of the gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit), (**1 Peter 4:10-11**).
  - D. Our anointed witness and ministry to the world, (**Acts 1:8**).
  - E. Our spiritual warfare with principalities and powers, (**Ephesians 6:10-17**).
  - F. Our striving for the restoration of the New Testament church and home. “.. *contending earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.*” (**Jude 3**)
  - G. Our aggressive appropriation of our privileges and blessings in Christ, (**2 Peter 1:2-11**).
  
- II. THE LORD REQUIRES A DEEP AND EXTENSIVE DEDICATION OF US
  - A. We must be dedicated to witnessing, (**Acts 1:8**).
  - B. We must be dedicated to ministry to the babes in Christ, (**Galatians 6:1-2**).
  - C. We must be dedicated to world-wide ministry, (**Mark 16:15-18**).
  - D. We must be dedicated to the establishment of the foundational ministries, (**Ephesians 2:19-20; 4:11-12**).
  - E. We must be dedicated to the ministry of elders and deacons in the local church, (**1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5**)
  - F. We must be dedicated to prayer and intercession, (**Ephesians 6:18-20**).
  - G. We must be dedicated to spiritual warfare, (**Ephesians 6:10-17**).
  - H. We must be dedicated to the end-time message, and restoration of the church, (**Acts 3:19-21**).
  - I. We must be dedicated to the ministry of the printed word.
  - J. We must be dedicated to the ministry of the recorded Word (radio, tape library, and so forth).
  - K. We must be dedicated to inter-church ministry.
  - L. We must be dedicated to Body- ministry (can you define this?) (**1 Corinthians 12:24-27**).
  - M. We must be dedicated to participation in the worship and ministry services, (note the effect this has on visitors), (**1 Corinthians 14:24-26**).
  - N. We must be dedicated to the visitation ministry, (**Acts 20:20-21; Matthew 25:31-46**).
  - O. We must be dedicated to ministering love and concern, (**1 Peter 4:8**).
  
- III. DISCUSS THE PRESENT OUTREACH AND WITNESS OF OUR LOCAL CHURCH
  
- IV. DISCUSS THE WEAK PHASES OF THE OUTREACH

Discuss the weak phases of the outreach and witness of your local church and how we may strengthen them.

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION VIII**

**CHURCH SERVICES**

## LESSON SEVENTEEN

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR THE SERVICES

Introduction:

Please note that the following points relate principally to the deep spiritual attitudes with which we approach the church services.

#### I. PREPARE YOURSELF PERSONALLY FOR THE CHURCH SERVICE

You must prepare yourself in mind and heart for the coming service. This meditation, and formation of a receptive attitude, should start several hours before the service. Anticipation activates faith and worship; (**Psalm 84:2, 10; 27:4; 122:1**).

#### II. APPROACH THE SERVICE PRAYERFULLY AND REVERENTLY

Avoid emotional disturbances or negative emotions before coming to the service. Negative thinking should be discarded. Eliminate any unbelief, bitterness or indifference. Upon entering the sanctuary, avoid frivolous talk. Leave the social amenities until after the service. Silent praise and prayer is much better; (**Psalm 95:1-7**).

#### III. BE PROMPT IN YOUR RESPONSE DURING THE SERVICE

The collective mind and spirit moves rather slowly. Often it takes half an hour or more before the people, as a whole, enter into the worship and flow of the service. Much time is saved when the more spiritual believers prepare their hearts to move quickly into the moving of the services. In effect, they are lead sheep, for their whole-hearted response to the service encourages a quicker response in the rest of the believers, (**Hebrews 10:22-25**).

#### IV. LISTEN FOR THE "KEY NOTE" OF THE SERVICE

Look for the depth of what is coming, or what the Lord is setting before the believers. Manifestations of the Holy Spirit (prophecies, and so forth) are not given for us to merely rejoice in, but they are given to speak to your heart and bring you a message from the Lord, (**1 Corinthians 12:7**).

#### V. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON THE LORD

We must not look to one another, or even to our own selves. Only as we focus on the Lord unitedly can we really move as one body in Christ. For this reason we should enter into worship and singing unto the Lord before we prophesy or minister in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (**Hebrews 12:2-3**), "*Looking unto Jesus...*"

#### VI. BE PRAYERFUL, BELIEVING, UNSELFISHLY SEEKING THE WELFARE OF OTHERS

You must have faith for the meeting. Be concerned about God meeting the needs of those present, and not just your own needs. This is the reason that Paul seems to play down the place of tongues in the services whereas he encourages all to prophesy, (**1 Corinthians 14:1-12**). The rule is, "edify others."

## VII. STRIVE TO MOVE FAITHFULLY IN THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS YOU HAVE

We must be faithful stewards with what we have, even though we are far from attaining our goals. We must all have our spiritual “Himalayas,” but we reach them one step at a time. The ultimate objective of perfection is good, but in the mean time do not neglect to move in the worship and ministry that you have.

## VIII. AVOID OVER-CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

We must avoid self-condemnation, fear or flightiness that comes from living on our nerves. Many believers are over-conscientious with the result that they “strain at gnats.” It is good to the perspective of the whole, so that you do not emphasise the lesser important things out of proportion. When we make mistakes or sin, we should be quick to repent, and then when we are aware of a restored right spirit, we must not dwell on the mistakes. Forget them and press on. Self-condemnation destroys the sensitive and aggressive faith that is so necessary to move in God in a service.

## LESSON EIGHTEEN

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### SINGING IN THE SERVICES

Scripture readings: **Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Corinthians 14:15, 26; 1 Samuel 16:14-21; 2 Kings 3:11-27; Acts 16:19-34; James 5:13; 1 Chronicles 13, 15, 16; 6:31-48; Nehemiah 12:27-30, 45-47; Ezra 3:10-11; Psalm 149; Exodus 15:1-21.**

#### I. WE ARE COMMANDED TO PRAISE AND SING BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

**Ephesians 5:18-21**

#### II. WE ARE COMMANDED TO DO THIS WITH ALL OUR HEART

**Colossians 3:12-17**

#### III. WHEN WE SING IN THE SPIRIT, THERE IS POWER IN THE SERVICES

- A. David sang the evil spirit away from Saul, (**1 Samuel 16:14-23**).
- B. Singing stimulated and encouraged the prophet in his ministry, (**2 Kings 3:11-27**).
- C. As the Apostles sang, God opened the prison doors, (**Acts 16:19-34**)
- D. Singing was a strong weapon of God to bring victory in battle, (**2 Chronicles 20**).
- E. David appointed singers to sing and worship before the presence of the Lord continually, (**1 Chronicles 6:31-48; 13, 15, 16; Acts 15:13-19**). This Tabernacle of David is being restored today.
- F. Psalm come to us to praise God for His deliverance, (**Exodus 15:1-21**).

#### IV. WHEN WE SING IN THE SPIRIT WE ARE MOVING IN PROPHECY

- A. Distinguish singing in the Spirit from natural singing, (**1 Corinthians 14:15, 26**).
- B. Distinguish also worship and singing in the Spirit from Psalm, hymns, spiritual songs, (**Colossians 3:12-17**).
- C. There are those who prophesy with harps (music), (**1 Chronicles 25:1-31**) (note v.1-7 especially). This prophetic ministry of music was restored in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah, (**Nehemiah 12:27-30, 45-47; Ezra 3:10-11**), “*And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of Jehovah, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the Sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise Jehovah, after the order of David king of Israel. And they sang one to another in praising and giving thanks unto Jehovah, saying, ‘For he is good, for his loving kindness endureth forever toward Israel.’ And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised Jehovah, because the foundation of the house of Jehovah was laid.*” There is a difference between singing the word of the Lord and singing the word of man.

## LESSON NINETEEN

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### PRAYER AND PRAISE IN THE SERVICES

Scripture readings:

Prayer: **Luke 11:1-28; 18:1-14; Matthew 6:5-18; Isaiah 56:7; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18; Jeremiah 29:13**

Praise: **Psalm 95:1-2; 100:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:4, 6; Colossians 3:16-17**

#### I. PRAYER IN OUR SERVICES

- A. Why pray? (**Matthew 7:7; 26:41; Luke 18:1; 21:36**).
- B. When to pray?
  - 1. Always; (**Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18**).
  - 2. When in distress; (**Psalm 118:5**).
  - 3. When afflicted; (**James 5:43**).
- C. How to pray?
  - 1. In Jesus' name; (**John 16:24**).
  - 2. Believing and forgiving; (**Mark 11:24-26**).
  - 3. In the spirit; (**Ephesians 6:18**).
  - 4. With the Holy Spirit's help; (**Romans 8:26-27**).
  - 5. With confession of sin and with humility; (**2 Chronicles 7:14**).
  - 6. With your whole heart; (**Jeremiah 29:13**).
- D. Will your prayer be answered? (**John 15:7; 1 John 3:22; 5:14-15; Luke 11:9; James 5:16; Mark 11:24; Hebrews 11:6**)
- E. Our prayers are like incense to the Father. (**Revelation 8:3-4**)
- F. Examples of prayer in the early church; (**Acts 1:14; 4:24-31; 12:5, 12**).

#### II. PRAISE IN OUR SERVICES

- A. We must enter His courts with praise and thanksgiving, (**Psalm 100:4**).
- B. Praise and thanksgiving is enjoined, and we are told to give thanks and praise to God for everything, (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:4, 6; Colossians 3:16-17**).
- 1. Do we give thanks for the things that have already happened to us? For good things only, or for all things? (**Romans 8:28**)
- 2. Do we give thanks for the things that are happening to us?
- 3. Do we have faith to rejoice and thank God for what will happen to us? God's people gave thanks before the walls of Jericho fell.  
Lazarus; Abraham rejoicing in faith; (**John 11:41-43; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Romans 4:17-5:5**).
- 4. Thanksgiving, praise and worship are an expression of faith toward God. Prayer without thanksgiving may be just the whine of fear, (**Philippians 4:6-8**).
- 5. We praise God and worship without being able to understand "why" things are as they are in our lives.
  - a. Paul and Silas in prison, (**Acts 16:16-34**).
  - b. Faith toward God, not in our exact interpretation of doctrine, (**Hebrews 6:1-2**).
  - c. Illustration: the synagogue in the first century when believers must radically change their observance of the Sabbath, of circumcision, and so forth, with the acceptance of the Christ that their law had prophesied.

- d. Faith in doctrines would be a stumbling block, but toward God would save.
  - e. We must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him, (**Hebrews 11:6**).
  - f. Faith in God takes precedence over our faith in doctrines since:
    - (1) Our understanding is limited.
    - (2) Many factors are involved of which we are, at best, ignorant.
- C. Our services should be filled with sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving.  
(**Psalm 95:2-5; Colossians 3:15-16; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9; Acts 2:46-47**)

## LESSON TWENTY

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### WORSHIP IN THE SERVICES

Scripture readings: **Psalm 95; John 4:19-24; Colossians 3:15-16; Malachi 3:16-4:2.**

#### I. WE SHOULD WORSHIP THE LORD

##### **Psalm 95:6-7**

- A. What is worship? “Worship” in the Hebrew means “to bow yourself down” in adoring contemplation of God. Worship is more than reading the Bible and meditating on it. Worship is more than listening to a sermon. Worship is more than most singing and praying. Prayer is concerned with our needs. Praise is concerned with our blessings. Worship is concerned with loving and adoring God Himself.
- B. Here are some scriptural examples of worship; (**Exodus 33:10, 34:5-8; Joshua 5:13-14; 2 Chronicles 7:3.**)
- C. What did Jesus teach us about worship? (**John 4:19-24**)
  - 1. We should worship God only, (**Matthew 4:10**).
  - 2. The Father seeks true worshippers, (**John 4:23**). Revelation speaks fourteen times of the worship that will fill all eternity.
  - 3. The place of worship is not important, (**John 4:19-21**).
  - 4. We must worship in spirit and in truth, (**John 4:24**).
- D. True worship satisfies God, (**John 4:23**). The worshipper also receives spiritual satisfaction, (**Psalm 16:11**). The worshipper is humbled and strengthened.

#### II. WE SHOULD REVERENCE AND FEAR THE LORD

##### **Psalm 95:8-11; Malachi 3:16-4:2.**

- A. The fear of the Lord is part of our worship, (**Psalm 89:7; 4:2**).
- B. The fear of the Lord is necessary, (**Hebrews 12:28; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Exodus 20:20**).
- C. Note what the reverence and fear of the Lord brings to you:
  - 1. Gives pleasure to God, (**Psalm 147:11**).
  - 2. Brings mercy and pity from God, (**Psalm 103:11, 13, 17**).
  - 3. Blessing, (**Psalm 112:1; 115:13**).
  - 4. Heart’s desires, (**Psalm 145:19**).
  - 5. Long life, (**Proverbs 10:27**).
  - 6. Purity, (**Proverbs 16:6**).
  - 7. Satisfaction, (**Proverbs 19:23**).
  - 8. Confidence, (**Proverbs 14:26**).
  - 9. Eliminates other fears, (**Isaiah 8:12-13**).

#### III. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE BELIEVERS CONSTITUTE THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, “*TO OFFER UP SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES ACCEPTABLE TO GOD*”

##### **1 Peter 2:5, 9; Hebrews 13:15.**

- A. In the Old Testament the priests were taken from the single tribe of Levi, but God plans that we should all be priests of God, (**Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6**). God had

originally purposed that all Israel should be a kingdom of priests to Him, (**Exodus 19:6**), and while this is set aside by the Levites fulfilling the priesthood, Isaiah prophecies that spiritual Israel will be a kingdom of priests unto the Lord, (**Isaiah 61:6**). This is the promise that Peter is applying to the believers.

- B. We must give the Lord an offering and sacrifice of “thanksgiving and praise.” (**Hebrews 13:15-16; Psalm 119:108; 107:22**)
- C. The sacrifices God delights in are a broken spirit and a contrite heart, (**Psalm 51:14-17**).
- D. We should offer our bodies as a “living sacrifice,” (**Romans 12:1-2**).
- E. The New Testament believer, like the Old Testament worshipper, should worship the Lord with his “substance” and “increase,” (**Proverbs 3:9-10**). We, too, must not come before the Lord empty-handed, (**Hebrews 13:16**). Our sharing and our giving are sacrifices well pleasing to the Lord, (**Philippians 4:10-19; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8**). We are to give as we purpose in our hearts, (**1 Corinthians 16:2**), “*Upon the first day of the week let each of you lay by him in store, as he may prosper, that no collections be made when I come.*” We are to set aside on the first day of the week, as the Lord has prospered us.

## LESSON TWENTY-ONE

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICES

Introduction:

In New Testament times, the churches usually met in the homes of the believers. We often read of such churches, (e.g. **Romans 16:3-5, 23; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Colossians 4:5; Philemon 2**). An important part of their services was the Love Feast and the Lord's Supper. Perhaps the first reference to this was in **Acts 2:46-47**, where we read of the believers breaking bread from house to house. Usually an apostle, or an elder representing him, spoke a blessing and a thanksgiving and the disciples broke bread, and so on. At some time during the feast, they greeted one another with the holy kiss. The holy kiss is mentioned in **1 Corinthians 16:20** and **2 Corinthians 13:12**. It is apparent that the Love Feast fell into abuses, for there are references to indicate this in the New Testament: (**1 Corinthians 11:17-34; 2 Peter 2:13; Jude 12**). Later church councils banned the Love Feast, and condemned it because of the problems that arose from its observance. The Lord's Supper, instituted by the Lord, continued to receive the emphasis of the early church fathers. The early church was a close spiritual unit. It was spiritual and mystical, yet more informal and with a closer human bond than we know today. Their sharing, their hospitality, their ministering to one another, yes, their deep love for one another as they gathered to worship the Lord together - these things made them participators. Many of the believers today in the church services are spectators, not participators.

#### I. BASIC RULES FOR OUR SERVICES:

- A. Varied participation is the rule, (**1 Corinthians 14:26**).
- B. "All participation" should be anointed, (**1 Corinthians 2:1-5**). The Apostle refused to minister by human eloquence. The charismatic anointing was essential.
- C. "All participation" should be edifying, (**1 Corinthians 14:5-13, 18-19, 23-28**).
- D. All friction, disputes and strife was to be avoided, (**2 Timothy 2:14-16, 23-24; Philippians 2:3, 14-15**).
- E. Believers, identify yourselves with the local body of believers and be a part of everything God is doing today.

#### II. DISCUSS THE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH WE MAY PARTICIPATE MORE IN THE SERVICES

#### III. A DEFINITION FOR BODY MINISTRY

Read **1 Corinthians 12:12-31** and **Ephesians 4:15-16**. Can you work out a definition from these verses for body ministry?

#### IV. DISCUSS THE TWO WAYS IN WHICH THE MINISTRY OF THE BODY TO ONE ANOTHER FLOWS IN THE SERVICES

- A. The flow of love and faith in the services from one to another, (**2 Thessalonians 1:3**).
- B. The flow of praise and worship from every believer to the Lord in the services, (**Ephesians 5:18-21; Colossians 3:15-17**).

## LESSON TWENTY-TWO

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### PROPHECY IN THE SERVICES

Scripture readings: **1 Corinthians 14, 12:10; Joel 2:28-32.**

Introduction:

As the Holy Spirit is restoring the gifts of the Spirit to the services (**1 Corinthians 12:4-11**), there is a need to study again the encouragement and instruction for prophesying in the services.

#### I. WHAT IS THE GIFT OF PROPHECY?

An endowment of grace to prophesy by the Spirit. (**1 Corinthians 12:7-11**). Definition of prophesying:

- A. Prophecy is divinely inspired and anointed utterance.
- B. Prophecy is a supernatural utterance given by God to an individual in a language already known to the individual.

#### II. IT IS PROPHESED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THAT MEN WOULD PROPHECY IN THESE DAYS

**Joel 2:28-32**

#### III. IT IS PROPHESED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THAT MEN WOULD PROPHECY IN THESE DAYS

**Acts 2:14-21**

#### IV. THE NEW TESTAMENT EMPHASISED PROPHESYING

Read **1 Corinthians**, chapters **11** through to **14**. Prophecy is mentioned 22 times. This emphasis indicates two things:

- A. The importance of the gift of prophecy.
- B. The urgency of the need for its regulation. Power tools are very valuable, but they always need careful handling.

#### V. THE GIFT OF PROPHECY SHOULD BE UNIVERSALLY RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH - IT IS FOR ALL

**Acts 2:14-18; 1 Corinthians 14:1, 5, 24-25, 31.**

#### VI. SCOPE AND PURPOSES OF THE GIFT OF PROPHECY.

- A. To speak to the church supernaturally, (**1 Corinthians 14:3a**).
- B. To edify the church, (**1 Corinthians 14:4**).
- C. To exhort the church, (**1 Corinthians 14:3b**).

“Exhort” (Greek) means “to call near,” translated “encouragement.” This is not rebuke. Rebuke or reproof should generally come from the ministry of the Word of God, (**2 Timothy 3:16-4:2**). Rebuke not an elder, entreat him as a brother.

- D. To comfort the church, (**1 Corinthians 14:3b, 31**).
- E. To teach the church, (**1 Corinthians 14:31**).  
Do not confuse this with the office of teacher, which conveys “authority”.
- F. To convict unbelievers, (**1 Corinthians 14:21-25**).  
This could also apply to the unlearned, for tongues were intended originally as a sign to unbelievers, but are rejected.
- G. Women and children may have the gift also, (**1 Corinthians 11:5; Joel 2:28**).
- H. All may have it, (**1 Corinthians 14:1, 24, 31**).

#### VII. PROPHECY IS A FLOW OF THE DIVINE LIFE-WORD FROM GOD, AND THAT WORD IS UNIFYING, CREATIVE, LIFE-GIVING, AND FAITH IMPARTING

**Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 10:6-8, 17.**

We must expose ourselves to the prophetic flow as much as possible. You are what you eat; divine diet creates a divine manifestation in your life. This is why Paul urges prophecy in the church services in **1 Corinthians 14**.

#### VIII. SCRIPTURAL INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO PROPHECY IF GOD HAS GIVEN YOU THE GIFT OF PROPHECY

- A. Quench not the Spirit, (**1 Thessalonians 5:19**).
- B. Grieve not the Spirit, (**Ephesians 4:29-32**).
- C. Despise not prophesyings, (**1 Thessalonians 5:20**).
- D. Neglect not the gift, (**1 Timothy 4:14**).
- E. Stir up the gift, (**2 Timothy 1:6**).
- F. Stewardship and faithfulness, (**1 Corinthians 4:1-2**).

## LESSON TWENTY-THREE

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### THE WORD OF GOD IN THE SERVICES

Scripture readings: **2 Timothy 3:13-4:5; 1 Timothy 4:13; Colossians 3:16-17; Psalm 1**

I. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT THE SCRIPTURES WERE TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN THE BELIEVERS' MEETINGS

**Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:13-4:5.**

- A. The early church read the scriptures together.
- B. They preached from the scriptures. They exhorted from the scriptures.
- C. They sang from the scriptures.

II. THE PUBLIC READING OF THE SCRIPTURES WAS AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

**Exodus 24:1-8; Deuteronomy 31:9-13; Joshua 8:30-35; 2 Kings 23:1-3; Nehemiah 8:5-12; Colossians 4:16.**

III. THE SCRIPTURES ARE THE INSPIRED WORD OF GOD, AND ARE GIVEN TO US TO ACCOMPLISH SEVERAL DIVINE PURPOSES IN OUR LIVES

**2 Timothy 3:13-4:5**

- A. They are able to make us wise unto salvation, (**v.15**).
- B. They are profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (**2 Timothy 3:16**).
- C. They are to bring us to perfection, completely furnished for all good works.
- D. They are the heart foundation for our ministry and songs and worship, (**Colossians 3:16-17**).
- E. They are the agency for our spiritual cleansing and sanctification; (**Psalm 119:9; John 15:3; 17:17; Ephesians 5:26**).
- F. They are the heart foundation for faith and spiritual power, (**John 15:7**).
- G. They are essential to spiritual growth, (**2 Peter 3:18**).
- H. They are our weapon in our struggle against Satan, (**Ephesians 6:17**).
- I. They are the basic essential for our security and success in this life. (**Psalm 1; Joshua 1:8**), *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate thereon day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”*

IV. DO WE GIVE THE SCRIPTURES THIS IMPORTANT PLACE IN OUR CHURCH SERVICES?

Do you neglect the scriptures in your own personal daily life?

## LESSON TWENTY-FOUR

New Testament Church

Section VIII - Church Services

### PERSONAL MINISTRY IN THE SERVICES

Scripture readings: **Acts 9:10-19; Mark 6:7-13; Acts 19:1-7; 22:7-21; Isaiah 58:6-12; 1 Timothy 4:14; Luke 10:1-20; James 5:14-16; 1 Timothy 1:18-19; Matthew 10:1-8; 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 1:6-7.**

#### I. WHAT IS PERSONAL MINISTRY?

Personal ministry is the experiencing or receiving of a scriptural experience or blessing through the help or spiritual ministrations of one or more ministries in the body of Christ. An example of it is found in **Acts 9:10-19**, and **Acts 22:7-21**. Here Ananias ministers to Saul of Tarsus. Saul, later called Paul, received assurance of salvation, healing of his blindness, water baptism, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a personal prophecy of experiences to come. Thus, personal ministry is the giving of a scriptural experience or gift to an individual believer. For example; if a believer is sick, and an elder anoints him with oil and prays for him, and the sick one is healed (**James 5:14**), that is the personal ministry of healing.

#### II. DOES THE LORD GIVE HIS SERVANTS MINISTRY FOR THEM TO GIVE TO OTHERS?

Yes, freely you receive, freely you give; (**Matthew 10:1, 7-8; Mark 6:7, 12-13; Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-9, 17-20; Ephesians 3:7; Colossians 1:28-29**).

#### III. WHAT ARE THE EXPERIENCES OR GIFTS THAT I MAY RECEIVE THROUGH OTHER BELIEVERS MINISTERING TO ME?

- A. Deliverance and forgiveness of sin; (**John 20:2-1-23; Matthew 16:19; 18:18-20; Isaiah 58:6-12**).
- B. The ordinances of the church:
  - 1. Water baptism, (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16**).
  - 2. The Lord's Supper, (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**).
  - 3. Foot washing, (**John 13:3-17**).
- C. Healing and deliverance from demonic oppression. (**Mark 16:17-18; James 5:14-16**).
- D. Baptism of the Holy Spirit, (**Acts 8:14-24; 19:1-7**).
- E. Gifts of the Holy Spirit, (**1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6-7**).
- F. Personal directive prophecy, (**1 Timothy 1:18-19; 4:14**).
- G. The laying on of hands.

The laying on of hands may be the means of imparting most of the above listed experiences, but it is also the means of ordaining and setting apart ministries such as the elders of the local church, deacons, apostolic missionaries, and so on; (**1 Timothy 5:17-22; Acts 6:5-6; 13:1-4**).

#### IV. MAY SEVERAL OF THESE EXPERIENCES AND GIFTS BE GIVEN TO A BELIEVER AT ONE TIME?

Yes, (**Acts 9:17-19; 19:6; 10:43-48**).

V. WHAT WARNING OR CAUTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THOSE SEEKING PERSONAL MINISTRY?

The believer should seek and accept ministry only from those ministries that are endowed by the Holy Spirit and commissioned by the Lord Jesus to impart that ministry. Ordination and commission by an organised denomination does not mean that the ministry has anything to impart. This ministry is God-given, not man-given. Much confusion and disappointment has resulted from “empty” hands being laid on the seekers. Certainly one can not impart what one does not have. The believer should seek instruction and guidance from the ministries able to lead them by the wisdom of God; (**1 Timothy 4:3; 2 Timothy 4:3-5; 2 Peter 2:1-3; Acts 19:29-30**).

**THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH**

**SECTION IX**

**NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH SACRAMENTS AND ORDINANCES**

## LESSON TWENTY-FIVE

New Testament Church

Section IX - Sacraments and Ordinances

### WATER BAPTISM

Scripture readings: **Mark 16:15-20; Colossians 2:6-17**

#### I. WHO IS TO BE BAPTISED IN WATER?

*“And He said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but He that believeth not shall be dammed.’” (Mark 16:15-16)*

#### II. JESUS COMMANDED US TO BE BAPTISED IN WATER

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19)*  
**(Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 22:16)**

#### III. THE MEANING OF WATER BAPTISM

**Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12-13.**

#### IV. HOW DID THEY BAPTISE IN THE BIBLE?

Did they baptise by immersion or sprinkling? **(Mark 1:8-11; Acts 8:38-39)**

#### V. STUDY CAREFULLY THE VARIOUS EXAMPLES OF BAPTISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- A. At Pentecost, **(Acts 2:41).**
- B. At Samaria, **(Acts 8:12).**
- C. Saul at Damascus, **(Acts 9:18).**
- D. At Caesarea, **(Acts 10:47-48).**
- E. At Philippi, **(Acts 16:15, 33).**
- F. At Corinth, **(Acts 18:8).**
- G. At Ephesus, **(Acts 19:5).**

#### VI. IT IS IMPORTANT TO US THAT JESUS HIMSELF WAS BAPTISED

*“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptised of him. Suffer it to be so now... Then he suffered him.” (Matthew 3:13-17)*  
**(Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)**

#### VII. WATER BAPTISM SHOULD MEAN MUCH TO US AS A DEEP SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE OF IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST!

Memory Verse: *“For as many, of you as have baptised into Christ have put on Christ.”*  
**(Galatians 3:27)**

## LESSON TWENTY-SIX

New Testament Church

Section IX - Sacraments and Ordinances

### FOOT WASHING AND COMMUNION

Scripture readings: **John 13:1-20; Luke 7:36-50; 1 Corinthians 10:16-22; 11:17-34; Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-23.**

#### I. SOME IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT FOOT WASHING

##### **John 13:1-20**

- A. Jesus washed his disciples' feet as their Lord and Master. **(v.3-5, v.13-14).**
- B. When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, the act was not understood at the time, **(v.6-7)**, but Jesus indicated it was essential to their being a part in Him. **(v.8).**
- C. The washing of the feet was symbolic of the cleansing of the entire person. **(v.9-10).**
- D. Only the sin of betrayal or apostasy (as with Judas) was not cleansed by Jesus washing their feet. **(v.10-11, 18-20. Also Hebrews 6:4-8).**
- E. Jesus set the example for us. We ought to wash one another's feet. **(v.12-17; 1 Timothy 5:9-10).**

#### II. SOME IMPORTANT TRUTHS ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION

##### **1 Corinthians 10:16-22; 11:17-34.**

- A. Our oneness in the Body of Christ is a result of us all partaking of Christ in the cup and bread of the communion altar, **(1 Corinthians 10:16-18).**
- B. The Lord's Supper is His body and His blood of the New Covenant, which was shed for many for the remission of sins; **(Matthew 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 22:7-23).**
- C. Communion is also a memorial feast, anticipating Christ's coming and kingdom; **(Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18).**
- D. Communion is a memorial feast, remembering and making currently efficacious the atoning sacrifice of Christ's body and blood. **(1 Corinthians 11:24-26)**
- E. We must discern the Lord's body in partaking of communion or we bring judgment upon ourselves, **(1 Corinthians 11:27-32).**
- F. Note that we must partake of communion with reverence for His body and blood, and with self-examination. By judging ourselves, and by appropriating His grace, we will not be judged, **(1 Corinthians 11:28-31).** Failure to do this often resulted in sickness and premature death. **(v.30)**, *"For this cause many among you are weak and sick, and not a few sleep."*

## LESSON TWENTY-SEVEN

New Testament Church

Section IX - Sacraments and Ordinances

### MARRIAGE AND CHILD DEDICATION

Scripture readings: **Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:3-15; Mark 10:2-16; Luke 18:15-17; Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 18:1-14; 1 Corinthians 7:1-17.**

#### I. MARRIAGE IS A SACRED INSTITUTION

- A. Marriage was instituted by God in the Garden of Eden, (**Genesis 2:18-25**).
  - 1. God created the woman for the man and to be his help meet; (**Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:8-12**).
  - 2. The husband is to leave father and mother and cleave to his wife, (**Genesis 2:24**). Quoted also in **Ephesians 5:31**.
  - 3. The husband and wife are one flesh, (**Genesis 2:24**). The prophet comments on this in **Malachi 2:13-16**. (Look up a translation other than the authorised version.)
  - 4. Marriage is to be held in honour, (**Hebrews 13:4**). Marriage obtains the Lord's favour; (**Proverbs 18:22**), "*Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.*"
- B. Marriage is figurative of Christ's relationship to the church; (**Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 19:6-9; Hosea 2:19-20; Ephesians 5:22-33**).
- C. Marriage was taught by our Lord to be a sacred and divine institution; (**Matthew 19:3-12; Mark 10:2-12**).

#### II. PARENTS PRESENTED OR "DEDICATED" THEIR CHILDREN TO CHRIST TO BE BLESSED

- A. Note the child that Jesus blessed; (**Matthew 18:1-14; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-47**).
  - 1. "Blessing" or "judgment" rests on our treatment of children, (**Matthew 18:4-11**). Can we read this passage without being persuaded of greater diligence and ministry to the children?
  - 2. Note how Christ identified Himself with the children, (**Mark 9:36-37**).
- B. Please note these passages where Christ combined His teaching on marriage with His teaching on the blessing of the children; (**Matthew 19:3-15; Mark 10:2-16**).

Let us dedicate our children to Christ and His service, but first let us dedicate ourselves to Christ and seek His blessing on our marriage and homes.