

Upon the Rock Bible Study Series
Prelesson
"GETTING TO KNOW THE GOD OF THE BIBLE"

What do you think?

The greatest questions of life:

- Where did we come from?
- Why are we here?
- What happens when we die?
- What is the purpose of life?

If there is a God,

- Then there is a Supreme Being to whom we must give an account.
- Then we need to learn whatever we can about the nature of God.
- Then we need to know what He requires of us and how to please Him.
- Then we have a reason for existence and a purpose in life.

If there is no God,

- Then there is no Supreme Being to whom we must give an account, i.e., no Judgment Day, no heaven, and no hell.
- Then this life is all there is.
- Then right and wrong, good and evil hardly matter.
- Then no one has any reason for existence or purpose in life.

Is there any evidence for the existence of God?

Hebrews 3:4

Can a house build itself?

T F

Does a house show intelligent design?

Y N

Psalm 19:1

Do the heavens declare the glory and intelligent handiwork of a Supreme Being?

Y N

Genesis 8:22

Do the seasons indicate order and intelligent design?

Y N

Isaiah 40:22

Does the universe display order and design?

Y N

Does the order in the universe point to an intelligent Being for that order and design?

Y N

Romans 1:20

Could ordinary matter without intelligence bring about the order and design seen in the universe?

Y N

Psalms 139:14

Does the human body show order and intelligent design?

Y N

If there is intelligent order and design in the universe and in a human body, does it make sense to believe that there is a designer.

Y N

Would this designer have to possess great intelligence?

Y N

Would this designer have to possess great power?

Y N

Is man intelligent enough to create the universe and the human body?

Y N

Is man powerful enough to create the universe and the human body?

Y N

How could inanimate matter so design and arrange itself to bring about the intricate workings of the human body?

Romans 2:14-15

How do you feel when someone does something to hurt you?

How do you feel when you do something to hurt or sin against someone else?

It is reasonable to believe that inanimate matter gave rise to the moral nature of rational man.

T F

The fact of God's existence gives the best reason why man has a moral nature.

T F

Man has a spiritual side, which cannot be explained by matter.

T F

Can We Trust the Bible?

2 Peter 1:16-21

Is it reasonable to believe that an intelligent God would communicate to all?

Y N

The Scriptures claim that men spoke from God being moved by the Holy Spirit.

T F

Isaiah 46:9,10

Can God reveal the end from the beginning and tell what will happen in the future?

Y N

Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34

Did what Joshua predicted in 1400 BC come to pass in 870 BC?

Y N

How could Joshua have known the future?

Some Messianic Prophecies

Micah 5:2

Was Jesus born in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:1-10)?

Y N

How can a person decide where he is going to be born?

Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25 (cf. Gen. 3:15)

Was Jesus to be born of a virgin?

T F

How could Isaiah know this 750 years before the birth of Jesus?

How could they know these things about Jesus?

- tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)
- seed of David (Psalm 132:11)
- would teach in parables (Psalm 78:2)
- Jewish rulers would reject him (Psalm 118:22)
- Flesh would not decay (Psalm 16:8-10)
- would enlist Gentiles (Isaiah 42:10)
- would be scourged (Psalm 35:15)
- casting lots for his garments (Psalm 22:18)
- bones not broken (Ex. 12:46; Psalm 34:20)
- given gall and vinegar (Psalm 69:21)
- buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9)

Many prophecies Jesus fulfilled were totally beyond the power of human control, such as: (1) place of birth, (2) time of birth, (3) manner of birth of a virgin woman, (4) betrayal, (5) manner of death in crucifixion, (6) people's reactions at his death, (7) piercing, and (8) his burial.

Concerning these eight prophecies, Peter Stoner in *Science Speaks* estimated the probability of anyone fulfilling all of them is 1 in 10^{17} . That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom. If Jesus were not from God and the Scriptures were not true, how could these prophecies have been fulfilled?

Upon The Rock Bible Study Series
Lesson 1
"THE SON OF GOD"

Matthew 7:24-27 The _____ man built his house upon the rock. He showed wisdom by _____ "these words of Mine" and _____. The foolish man hears but does not _____. Which foundation will you choose? _____

WHO IS JESUS?

Matthew 1:18-25 Jesus was to _____ his people from their sins. Immanuel means _____.

John 1:29-34 Jesus is the _____ of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Hebrews 1:1-4 God in these last days has spoken to us by _____ whom He has appointed _____ of all things, and through whom He made the _____. Jesus, the Son, is the _____ of God's glory and the _____ of His nature or person. When Jesus made purification of our sins, He sat down at the _____ of God.

WHY DID HE COME?

John 3:16,17

John 10:10

John 18:37

WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE HIM?

John 20:30,31

John's gospel was written so that _____

John 3:1-3

How did Nicodemus describe Jesus _____

Why did He believe this? _____

John 11:43-53 Did the people believe Jesus could raise the dead? _____ Did the enemies of Jesus recognize that Jesus could work signs? _____. "If we let him go on like this, _____ will believe in him."

1 Corinthians 15:1-8 List those to whom Jesus appeared after his resurrection:

- a.
- b.
- c.
- d.
- e.
- f.

John 20:19,20

Where were the disciples hiding? _____

Why were disciples hiding? _____
What did they do when they saw the Lord? _____

Acts 1:1-3

How long did Jesus show himself alive after his resurrection? _____

Were the disciples convinced of his resurrection? _____

Acts 5:26-32

Did the apostles state that they were witnesses of the resurrection? _____

What caused this group, who was at first afraid, to openly disobey the Council (Sanhedrin) and preach the gospel of Jesus?

Would you break the law, knowing you would be punished, to preach a belief that you knew was a lie?

Matthew 28:18

Jesus has been given _____ authority in heaven and on earth.

John 3:35-36

The Father has given all things into the hands of the _____.

Can one disobey Christ and still please God? _____

John 12:48

By what will we be judged on the last day? _____

John 16:12,13

Did Jesus tell his disciples everything during his earthly ministry? _____

The Spirit of truth was to guide them into _____ truth.

2 Timothy 3:16,17

All Scripture is _____ by God.

The Scriptures thorough equip (or furnish) the man of God for _____ good work.

If the Scriptures furnish man for every good work, is there any need for additional revelation?

2 John 9-11

Can one add to, take away from, or change the teaching of Christ and still please God?

Galatians 1:6-10

How many gospels have come from Christ? _____

What will happen to anyone preaching a different gospel? _____

We should always seek to please _____.

John 12:48

By what will we be judged?

- creeds of men?
- preachers?
- the old and new covenants?
- the words of Jesus in the new covenant?

What do you think of the following statement of C. S. Lewis?

"I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic--on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg--or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come away with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."

Matthew 16:13-19 "But who do you say that I am?"

“UPON THE ROCK” BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Lesson 2

“THE GREAT SALVATION”

THE DOWNFALL OF MAN

Romans 3:23

Every person has _____ and _____ of the glory of God.

1 John 1:8-10

If we say we have not sinned we deceive _____ and make Him a _____.

What is sin?

James 4:17 _____

1 John 3:4 _____

1 John 5:17 _____

What are the consequences of sin?

Romans 6:23 _____

Galatians 5:19-21 _____

Matthew 26:41

The spirit is _____, but the flesh is _____.

SALVATION IS IN CHRIST

Romans 5:6-10

While we were still _____, Christ died for the _____.

1 Peter 2:21-25

Jesus bore our _____ in his body on the tree (cross) that we might _____ to sin. By his _____ we are healed.

John 3:16

God so loved the _____ that He gave His only begotten Son that _____ believes in Him should not perish.

Matthew 7:13,14

_____ will go the broad way to destruction. _____ will find the way to life.

SURVEY OF YOUR LIFE:

Are you saved? _____

When were you saved? _____

When were you baptized? _____

Why were you baptized? _____

Were you saved before or after baptism? _____

Matthew 7:24-27

What distinguishes the wise from the foolish man? _____

John 14:15

If you love Me, you will _____ My _____.

Romans 6:17,18

Is obedience to God inward only, outward only, or both inward and outward? _____

The Romans obeyed from the heart a _____ of doctrine.

What is a form? _____

Were they freed from sin before or after they obeyed the form of teaching? _____

Hebrews 11:6

We cannot _____ God without faith in Him and His promises.

James 2:24

One is justified by faith (Romans 5:1) but not by faith _____

Luke 13:1-5

Along with faith and love, one must repent or he will _____

Matthew 21:28,29

Which son repented? _____

Is repentance good intentions only? _____

Luke 15:11-24

When the lost son came to himself or came to his senses, he decided to go to his _____ and said, "_____ against heaven and in your sight."

What sins in your life cause you sorrow?

Matthew 10:32,33

Christ wants us to confess _____ before other men.

Could I do all these (love, believe, repent, and confess) except one and still please God? _____

Matthew 28:20 (Matthew 23:23)

Will God be pleased if we do only part of what He commands? _____

Mark 16:15,16

He that _____ and has been _____ shall be saved.

In this sentence which comes first "baptized" or "saved?" _____

Acts 2:36-41

Why were the Jews pierced to the heart? _____

Peter told them to _____ and be _____ for the forgiveness of their sins.

Is this promise for them alone? _____

What did these who gladly received his word do? _____

Did the 3,000 understand Peter's message alike? _____

Acts 8:35-39

Was baptism included in Philip's preaching of Christ? _____

The Eunuch saw _____ and wanted to be baptized.

In baptism the Eunuch went _____ the water and came up _____ the water.

Acts 22:16

Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your _____, calling on the name of the Lord.

Romans 6:3-7

We are baptized into the _____ of Christ.

We are _____ with Him by baptism into death.

Christ walked in newness of life when he was _____ from the dead.

We walk in newness of life before or after we are buried and raised with Christ? _____

Our old self is crucified with him that our body of _____ might be done away.

If baptism is a burial, could one please God without being buried in water? _____

Titus 3:3-7

He saved _____, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His _____.

He saved us through (by) the _____ of regeneration (rebirth) and the _____ of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:5

There is _____ baptism.

If we obeyed the form of teaching that Paul, the Eunuch, and the Romans obeyed, could we too be set free from sin? _____

The one baptism is burial in _____ for the _____ of sins.

Would you like to have your sins forgiven today? _____

"UPON THE ROCK" BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Lesson 3

"THE BODY OF CHRIST"

Matthew 7:24-27

To have a solid foundation we must _____ and _____.

CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

Christ is:

_____ of the church. (Matthew 16:18)

_____ of the church. (Acts 20:28)

_____ of the church. (Ephesians 1:22,23)

Colossians 1:18

The body (of Christ) is the _____.

How many bodies does Christ have?

Romans 12:4,5 _____

1 Corinthians 12:12,13 _____

Ephesians 4:4 _____

1 Corinthians 12:13

We are all _____ into one body.

1 Corinthians 12:27

If the body is the church, then the body of Christ is also the _____ of Christ.

RELIGIOUS UNITY

John 17:20-23

Jesus prayed that all his people might be _____.

Is religious division a stumbling block to the faith of many people? _____

Does God approve of religious division? _____

1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Christians should be perfectly united or made complete in the same _____ and the same _____.

1 Corinthians 14:33

God is not a God of _____ but of peace.

THE CAUSE OF RELIGIOUS DIVISION

Matthew 7:15-23

Beware of _____ who come in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Will all who say, "Lord, Lord," be saved? _____ He who _____ the will of my Father will enter heaven. Some were rejected because they practiced _____.

Matthew 15:1-14

The disciple transgressed the tradition of the elders but the Pharisees transgressed the _____ for the sake of tradition.

Isaiah said that these people honor Me with their _____ but their _____ are far from me. Their worship is _____ because they teach the _____ of men. Every plant not planted by the Father shall be _____. Can a person be blind to the truth? _____

Galatians 1:6-9

How many gospels are there? _____ If one teaches a different gospel, he will be _____.

2 John 9-11

To have both the Father and the Son, one must _____ in the teaching of Christ. Does it please God to assist, bless, or support some who does not teach the doctrine of Christ? _____

John 8:31,32

If you _____ in My word, then you are _____ my disciples, and you will know the _____, and the truth will make you _____.

THE PROPHECY OF THE FALLING AWAY

Acts 20:28-30

Savage wolves will destroy the flock by _____ to draw away the disciples after them.

1 Timothy 4:1-3

Some will fall away by paying attention to (or following) _____ and _____.

2 Tim. 4:1-5

The time will come when men will not put up with sound _____. People will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to _____.

2 Peter 2:1-3

False teachers will secretly introduce _____.

THE FALLING AWAY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH A BRIEF HISTORICAL STUDY

I. THE CHURCH AS IT WAS ESTABLISHED

Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:1-6.

II. THE FALLING AWAY

Unscriptural doctrines and practices began to be introduced after the death of the apostles:

- Holy water (113 A.D.)
- Lent (140 A.D.)
- Penance (157 A.D.)
- Infant baptism (185 A.D.)
- Intercession of the saints (240 A.D.)
- Sprinkling for baptism (250 A.D.)
- sacrifice of Mass (370 A.D.)
- celibacy of priests (425 A.D.)
- purgatory (450 A.D.)
- confession to priests (500 A.D.)
- Pope (Boniface III, 606 A.D.)

- instrumental music used in worship (670 A.D.)

The church continued to depart from the faith until it did not even resemble the church that Christ built. It was different in doctrine, worship, organization and in mission. The Reformation was a step in the right direction. The reformers rebelled against many of the corruptions of Rome. They rejected many of the unscriptural practices of the apostate church; but they were inconsistent in holding on to other things which were just as unscriptural, e.g. infant baptism, sprinkling, and instrumental music. Some reformers: Martin Luther (1530 A.D.) Lutheran Church; Luther's catechism; John Calvin (1536 A.D.) Presbyterian Church; Westminster Confession; Henry VIII (1552 A.D.) Episcopal Church; Book of Common Prayer; John Smyth (1607 A.D.) Baptist Church; Standard Manual; John Wesley (1629 A.D.) Methodist Church; Methodist Discipline. Today there are more than 1000 denominations that create division and confusion in the minds of men. More denominations are not needed. We have enough!

III. THE RESTORATION OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

If the church of Christ today is simply another denomination, it has no reason or right to exist. These men wanted to restore the church of Christ in its simplicity and purity as it was in the first century. This is still our plea today: James O'Kelly (1793 A.D.) a Methodist preacher; Elias Smith (1800 A.D.) a Baptist preacher; Barton W. Stone (1804 A.D.), a Presbyterian preacher; Thomas and Alexander Campbell (1830 A.D.), Presbyterian preachers.

These men said, "Let us cast aside all denominational names, creeds, doctrines and practices which divide the Christian world and just wear the name 'Christian' and be only members of the New Testament church." Their plea was, "Where the Scriptures speak we speak; where they are silent we are silent." They began to sow the seed of the Kingdom (Luke 8:11) which produced only Christians, members of the church of Christ, as it had done more than 1900 years earlier.

Upon the Rock Bible Study Series
Lesson 4
"BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD"

**"Upon the Rock" Bible Study Series
Building a Relationship with God**

Covenants

Through the ages God has established relationships with men through covenants. Covenants are permanent, formal agreements between two parties, wherein God pledges to keep promises and men pledge to obey His commandments. God has made many covenant promises to man but made only two major covenants with men. The first covenant was with Israel as a nation; and the second through the blood of Jesus with all men.

The First Covenant

Exodus 19:1-8

The first covenant was made at _____.

God promised to make Israel a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

T F

God would bless Israel whether they obeyed His voice and kept His commandments.

Y N

The sons of Israel said, "All that the LORD has spoken we _____!"

Deuteronomy 5:1-22

God made a covenant with Israel at Sinai.

T F

The Sinai covenant also included their fathers.

T F

Israel remembered the Sabbath because God delivered them from Egyptian slavery.

T F

Exodus 34:27-28 (Deut. 4:13)

Moses wrote on the tablets the words of the _____, the _____ commandments.

The Promise of a New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

God promised to make a _____ covenant.

Israel broke the first covenant.

T F

In the new covenant, everyone will know the Lord.

T F

God said, "I will forgive their _____, and their sin I will remember no more."

Hebrews 8:6-13

He [Jesus] is the mediator of a _____ covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

If that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

T F

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first _____.

Romans 7:4-7

We were made to _____ to the Law by the body of Christ, that we might be joined to another. We have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound.

T F

We serve in _____ of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter. Which law said, "You shall not covet"?

Galatians 3:19-25

The law was added because of _____.

The law was our _____ to lead us to Christ.

Now that _____ has come, we are no longer under the _____.

Matthew 5:17,18

Jesus came to _____ the Law and the Prophets.

Romans 15:4

Whatever was written in earlier times was written for our _____, that through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have _____.

The New Covenant in Jesus

Ephesians 2:11-19

But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were _____ have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Jesus broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the _____ of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man.

Matthew 28:18-20

_____ authority has been given to Jesus. Christians are to observe _____ that Jesus commanded.

Matthew 7:24-27

The wise man hears the _____ of Jesus and _____ upon them.

The foolish man hears but does not act upon _____.

John 12:48

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My _____, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

John 8:31-32

If you _____ in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the _____, and the truth shall make you free.

How would you describe someone who added to, subtracted from, or changed the teachings of Jesus?

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you _____ one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

How has Jesus loved us?

John 14:15, 23

If you love me, you will _____ my commandments.

John 15:8

By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so _____ to be My disciples.

How do Christians bear fruit?

2 John 9-11

If anyone goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, he does not have God.

T F

One who supports a false teacher participates in his _____ deeds.

Why would a follower of Jesus want to change any teaching that comes from Christ?

Colossians 3:1-17

Christians should seek the things _____ where Christ is.

Christians should consider the members of their body as _____ to immoral things.

Christians have laid aside the old self and has put on the new self, who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.

T F

What characteristics should a Christian display in his life?

"UPON THE ROCK" BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Lesson 5

"UPON THE ROCK"

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH

Matthew 7:24-27 (1 Corinthians 3:11)

The safe foundation is the _____.

Can one be sure of any other foundation? _____

Acts 14:21-23

Paul and Barnabas appointed _____ for them in every church.

Is the word "elders" singular or plural? _____

Acts 20:17-28

Paul called the _____ of the church at Ephesus. Paul said the Holy Spirit made them _____ to shepherd the church of God. Elders are _____.

Philippians 1:1

There was only one bishop (overseer) and one deacon of the church at Philippi.

T F

Titus 1:5-9

Elders and _____ are terms used to refer to the same office.

Titus was to appoint _____ in every city.

1 Timothy 3:1-13

Overseers and deacons must meet certain qualifications to hold these offices.

T F

1 Timothy 2:10-15

Women are not allowed to teach or to _____ over a man.

NEW TESTAMENT WORSHIP

John 4:23,24

God seeks those who will worship Him in _____ and in _____.

John 8:31,32

The true disciples of Christ abide in His _____.

1 Timothy 2:8

God wills that men should _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray _____

Acts 17:10,11

The Bereans were noble because they _____ the Scriptures _____ to see whether these things were so.

2 Peter 3:18

Grow in the grace and the _____ of our Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Christians eat the bread and drink the cup in _____ of the death of Christ.

Acts 20:6,7

Why did the church at Troas gather together? _____

When did the gathering take place? _____

Would it be a safe guide for us to break the bread each first day of the week? _____

1 Corinthians 16:1,2

The church was to put aside and save on the _____ day of the week.

Does this passage mention the word "tithe?" _____

2 Corinthians 9:6,7

Each should give as he has _____ in his heart.

God loves the _____ giver.

Does this passage mention tithes? _____

Ephesians 5:19

God desires that we _____ to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

We should make melody _____ our hearts.

Is an instrument mentioned here other than the heart? _____

Colossians 3:16

We should _____ and _____ one another with songs, hymns and spiritual songs.

Would God be pleased if we sang without using any instruments (such as a piano)? _____

Are musical instruments able to speak, teach or admonish? _____

John 8:31

If we speak, teach and admonish by singing a cappello, are we abiding in God's word? _____

Can one be sure he is abiding in God's Word if he adds musical instruments to his worship? _____

Hebrews 10:23-26

A Christian should stimulate others to _____ and _____.

Forsaking our own _____ does not please God.

There no longer remains a sacrifice for sin for the one who _____ goes on sinning.

Romans 12:1,2

Our bodies should be a living _____.

We should _____ what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

SUMMARY

T F The wise man builds his house upon the rock by hearing and acting upon the word of God.

T F Jesus is the Son of the living God.

T F Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and arose the third day.

T F You and I will be judged by the words of Christ.

T F God will hold us responsible for sin.

T F I have always done the will of God.

T F The wages of sin is death.

- T F We should obey from the heart the teachings of Christ.
- T F One must do all the will of God to please Him.
- T F To be saved one must love, believe, repent, and be baptized.
- T F True baptism is burial in water for the forgiveness of sins.
- T F God wants all who believe to be one.
- T F God wants each church to have elders and deacons.
- T F God wants churches to pray, study, give, sing, and partake of the Lord's supper.
- T F I want to build my house on the rock.
- T F know I have a loving and right relationship with God.
- T F I want to be right with God today.

Acts 2:41

They that gladly received his word were _____.
Did they wait for another day? _____

James 4:13-17

Do you have assurance of tomorrow? _____
It is _____ to fail to do what you know is right.