



FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH

Lesson 2

Dear student,

In Lesson 1 we learned the following:

- That sin entered into the world, and God has stated, “All have sinned.”
- That the wages of sin is death.
- That the gift of God is eternal life in His Son.
- That we are to “follow Christ” as Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, followed Him.
- That we have a commission as members of the Church, the Body of Christ, which is the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

If a student is to understand the relevance of the “mystery” spoken of by the apostle Paul in Ephesians, he will find it necessary to understand that God changes His dealings with men in different dispensations; yet the principles of God remain the same. (Note: You will learn more about dispensations in the next course “Understanding the Bible.” For now it is enough to know that a dispensation refers to God’s rules and expectations for His people and for mankind during a given period of history.)

If one reads Matthew 10:5, 6 and Ephesians 3:8, 9; he will see an example of a change of dispensations. However, if one reads Mark 12:31 and Galatians 5:14; he will see an example of a principle, which remains unchanged.

The Body of Christ started with the ministry of Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles (Ephesians 3:2-3, 6). This Church was not specifically mentioned by any other writer of the Scriptures (Ephesians 3:1-8). Paul’s ministry began when he was converted on the Damascus road, sometime after Pentecost (Acts 9).

Pray as you proceed, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and teach, for the truths of the Word of God are never fully understood unless the Holy Spirit gives the understanding. The Holy Spirit is the author, interpreter and applier of the Scriptures.



FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH BIBLE STUDY

Session One

Three Great Commissions

1. Many consider the “Great Commission” of Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus’ last instructions for his disciples, to be our commission for today.

What are the requirements of this commission?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Note: As you study you will find that this commission was given to the Twelve Apostles and was a continuation of an earlier assignment. The message, which they proclaimed was that if Israel would repent, God would send Christ back to establish His Kingdom on earth (Acts 1:6; 3:19-21). This was a literal kingdom, which was promised to Israel throughout the Old Testament and the Gospels.

2. The first commission given by the Lord is found in Matthew 10:5-6. Where were the Twelve Disciples commanded NOT to go? _____
And to whom were they TO go? _____
3. (Matthew 10:7-8) What message were they to proclaim? _____
What were they to do? _____
4. In your own words, explain why this commission is not the one that we are to follow today.

5. (1 Corinthians 1:22; John 6:28-30) The Lord Jesus in this commission gave the Disciples the power to heal, cleanse the leper and raise the dead. Why? _____
_____ Was this power given to be used with the Jews or the Gentiles? _____

6. (Acts 28:28) After God stopped dealing with Israel as a nation, to whom was the Gospel sent?

7. (Romans 11:11) When Israel (the Jewish nation) rejected God’s offer of the Kingdom, why did God then begin to turn to the Gentiles? _____
8. When God temporarily ceased dealing with Israel as a covenant nation and turned to the Gentiles, the old commission (Matt. 28:19, 20) was set aside. A new commission was given to the apostle Paul for the Church, which is the Body of Christ. Please read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.
(v. 18) What have we been given? _____
9. (vs. 18, 19) The “Ministry of reconciliation” is that all people, Jews and Gentiles alike, may be saved through faith in Jesus Christ. What are we called? (vs. 20) _____
10. (Galatians 1:8) What would happen if someone preached another gospel other than that committed to Paul? _____
11. (Romans 1:16) During the book of Acts we see a sequence of transitions. What was the order of the preaching of the gospel? (See also Acts 13:46) _____
12. (Acts 28:28) When did this priority in preaching the gospel change? “God’s salvation has been sent to…”

13. (Romans 11:25) How long will God cease His dealings with Israel as a nation? _____

14. (Romans 11:26-27) When will God bring deliverance and salvation to Israel as a nation? _____

15. Can Jews today become members of the one Body, the true Church? _____
What does Ephesians 2:16 say about this? (Use your own words) _____

16. (Ephesians 2:19) Which group of people has a “more favored” position with God today?

Circle one: **Jews** **Gentiles** **Neither**

17. (Ephesians 2:12) What was the situation of the Gentiles before the Church began?
- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____
- (4) _____
- (5) _____
18. (Ephesians 2:14) How has God altered this condition of the Gentiles? _____
- _____
19. Read Colossians 3:11 and Galatians 3:28. Is there any group in the Body of Christ who might receive special honor or a special position? Yes _____ No _____.
- Why? (Note the last part of each of these verses) _____
- _____

Fulfilling Our Commission

20. (1 Corinthians 4:1) What is the believer's responsibility and privilege as a member of the Body of Christ?
- _____
- _____
21. (John 7:17) How can we know God and His will for our lives? We must _____
- _____
22. (Romans 12:2) How can we experience what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God?
- _____
- _____

If a man would like to know God's plan for his life, he must be diligent in studying His Word. He must also be able to tell the difference between the various divisions of Scripture in order to determine what applies directly to him and what does not.

23. Please read: Philippians 3:17; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:2, 7 and 1 Corinthians 11:1; 14:37. What is Paul telling us to do in these verses? _____
- _____
24. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) The Body of Christ has been entrusted with the gospel. What is the gospel?
- _____
- _____

25. (1 Thessalonians 2:4) How are we to speak? _____

26. (2 Timothy 2:2) How are we to carry out the true commission for today? _____

27. (Titus 2:13) What is the “hope of the Church”? _____

Session Two

In Session 1 we found:

- To be “in Christ” today is to be in the Church, His Body.
- That no writer in the Bible except the apostle Paul mentions the Church, Body of Christ.

In such a brief study we can only touch the surface. We would like to emphasize the need, as you study, to ask God for more in-depth understanding and wisdom. If this basic study fires the innermost being of someone to make a more thorough study of the Word rightly divided, it will have done its job.

As a noble Berean search out God’s precious gems, mindful of the charge we have in 2 Timothy 2:1, 2: “Thou, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

1. (Ephesians 1:20-23; 5:23) In Paul’s epistles, and nowhere else, we see the Church referred to as the “Body of Christ.” Who is the Head of this Body? _____
2. (Galatians 1:1, 12) How did the apostle Paul receive the gospel which he preached? _____

3. (1 Corinthians 12:13) How does one become a member of this Church? _____

4. In 1 Corinthians 12:14 Paul states, “For this body is not one member, but many.” Are you a member?
 Yes _____ No _____
5. How can you be positive that you are a member of the Body of Christ? Answer in your own words.

6. (Romans 10:13) Can anyone become a member of the Church, the Body of Christ? _____

(Galatians 3:26) What is the one requirement to become a member? _____

MEMORY VERSE: *“Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it”* (1 Corinthians 12:27).

7. (Ephesians 3:8) What privilege (grace) was given to the apostle Paul as the special messenger to the Church? _____

8. (Ephesians 3:9) What responsibility did he have? _____

9. Read Romans 16:25-26 and Ephesians 3:1-6. What is the common idea concerning the mystery in Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:5? _____

10. (1 Corinthians 2:13) Who is our teacher as we seek to understand the things of God? _____

11. (Colossians 1:9-10) We need discernment and understanding from God to be able to apply the truths of God’s Word to our everyday living. True _____ False _____

12. (Colossians 2:6, 7) How does Paul want the believers to live?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

13. What warning does the Bible give in Colossians 2:4? _____

_____ And in Colossians 2:8?

14. (Ephesians 1:15-19) Name five things that Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers?

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

15. (Ephesians 6:11-13) What instructions does the Bible give in order for us to stand against the schemes of the devil? _____
16. According to Ephesians 6:12, what do we struggle against? _____
17. (Ephesians 6: 14-17) List the six elements of the whole armor of God.
- (1) _____
 - (2) _____
 - (3) _____
 - (4) _____
 - (5) _____
 - (6) _____
18. According to Ephesians 6:18:
- a. When should we pray? _____
 - b. How should we pray? _____
 - c. For whom should we pray? _____
19. (Ephesians 6:19-20) What does Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for on his behalf? _____

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

REJOICE EVERMORE

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS: FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF
GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU.

A THREE-FOLD PROCESS

- A DEFINING ACT -- Romans 12:1, 2

INITIAL PRESENTATION

Have you taken the first step in presenting your body as a living sacrifice?

This Three-Fold Process is ALSO:

- A DAILY ATTITUDE -- Romans 6:11

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Is your daily attitude and activity consistent with having presented your body for God's control?

- A DOMINATING ACTIVITY -- Galatians 2:20

INDWELLING PRESENCE

You voluntarily present your body and trust Christ to change your daily attitude; then you allow Christ to live His life IN and THROUGH you. Remember this is an ongoing PROCESS.

“CHRIST LIVES IN ME” - This is true of every believer.

“CHRIST LIVES THROUGH ME” - This is not true of every believer. This takes yielding and submitting to His control.

