

**KNOW WHY YOU BELIEVE**  
**LESSON # 22**  
**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND EXPERIENCE**

As we move towards the end of the Sunday School year, for the next four weeks we will discuss “the Christian Life and Experience.” As usual, we turn to the Bible to discover what the normal Christian experience looks like.

Our passage of scripture for the next four weeks will be from the Book of Acts 2:42 – 47:

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. [43] Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. [44] All the believers were together and had everything in common. [45] Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. [46] Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, [47] praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

This passage defines the practice of the early church directly after it was founded by Jesus Christ on the day of Pentecost (fifty days after His resurrection.)

The four key elements of the practice of the early Christians in the early church were:

- 1) “They devoted themselves to the apostles “teaching \_\_\_\_\_”
- 2) “They devoted themselves to \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) “They devoted themselves to \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) “They devoted themselves to the breaking of bread \_\_\_\_\_

Each week for the next four we will look at one of these aspects of the Christian life and experience.

**BEGINNING WITH (and reviewing) THE WORD OF GOD**

**(I) AN OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE**

(A) The Bible contains 66 books:

- 1) 39 in the \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) 27 in the \_\_\_\_\_

(B) The books are divided into chapters and verses for reference.

1) The chapters and verses we have in our Bibles are there to help us find our way around the Bible, they are inserted, they were not originally there.

(C) The Old Testament was written in the \_\_\_\_\_ language.

(D) The New Testament was written in the \_\_\_\_\_ language. (Remember that our English Bible is a translation from these original languages.)

(E) Did God make a mistake? Why the need for a New Testament? What's wrong with the Old one? Read Hebrews 8:9-10.

(1) The foundation of the "Old Covenant / Testament" with Israel was man's obedience to it (v 9).

(a) "Covenant" means, "A \_\_\_\_\_, is a \_\_\_\_\_."

(2) The foundation of the "New Covenant / Testament" is God's action on behalf of man. (Note the "I wills" in verse 10). It was enacted by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Luke 22:20)

## **(II) BASIC OF SCRIPTURE**

(A) Historical: narrative that lays foundation for future things, i.e., Genesis/Gospels.

(B) Poetical: song-like, worshipful or proverb-like. Psalms

(C) Prophetical: the Word describing future events, i.e., Isaiah, Revelation, portions of the Gospels.

(D) Instructional: Practical application of Scripture, i.e., Romans, Deuteronomy, Corinthians, Proverbs.

## **(III) BASIC OF SCRIPTURE**

(A) God - Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:1; Psalms 103:1

(C) Sin - 1 John 2:15-17; Romans 3:23

(D) Jesus - John 5:39, Luke 24:7, 44, 45

(E) Redemption - Romans 3:24; 10:8-13

(F) Salvation - Romans 1:16; 10:8-13

(G) Satan/spirit world - Genesis 3:1, 2 Corinthians 4:4

(H) Prophecy - 2nd coming of Jesus - Revelation 4:20

(I) Man - Beginning and final end - John 3:17-19

#### **(IV) BASIC IN SCRIPTURE**

(A) Old Testament: Historical preparation for the Messiah.

- 1) 5 books by Moses - Beginning of history and the section known as “The Law”
- 2) The five books of Moses are also known as “The Pentateuch” since Pent means “five.”
- 3) The five books of Moses are followed the books of Israel’s history Joshua – Esther
  - a) These books give the Messiah’s preparation in history
- 4) There are several books in the Old Testament that are known as  
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  - a) Job – Song of Solomon
  - b) Included in these books is the Book of Psalms which contained much of the worship and many of the songs Israel sang
- 5) The books of Isaiah through Daniel are called “the Major Prophets”
  - a) They are called major prophets only because they are longer than the other books of prophecy in the Bible.
- 6) Hosea through Malachi are known as “the Minor Prophets” only because they are shorter than the other prophets.

(B) New Testament: Manifestation - Consummation of Christ.

(H) The Gospels: The life & works of Christ

(I) Acts: The further works of Christ through the Apostles.

(J) The Epistles: Church doctrine

(K) Revelation: Jesus' rule established

**(V) BECAUSE THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP US UNDERSTAND IT**

(A) “The person without the Spirit does not understand the things that come from God.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

(B) The Holy Spirit will teach us and help us to remember (Read John 14:26)

**(VI) \_\_\_\_\_ OF STUDYING GOD’S WORD**

(A) Simply read the Bible and ask God to speak to you as you read it.

1) There are many Bible reading plans (the church offers a different one every year) to help you read through the Bible

(B) When you read a particular passage in the Bible ask yourself these questions:

“Who, What, When, Where, Why, How Come?”

C) Let’s explore how we might understand the Bible for ourselves by turning to Mark 4:35-41 reading the passage and answer those questions from the verses:

- (1) Who?
- (2) What is said about the person or people involved?
- (3) What does the person (people) say?
- (4) What? What is happening? What are the events; in what order?
- (5) Where? Where is the event taking place? Where are people going to or coming from?
- (6) When? When did the events take place?
- (7) Why? Why is this story included? Why here in the text? Why does one person say what he does? etc.
- (8) Wherefore? So what?
- (9) What difference would it make in my life if I were to apply this truth?

